

Hurricane Relief Update

September 7, 2005

From: Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Staff

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord who calls us into service.

Mission for Faith Based "Commission"

- Churches adopt a shelter in their local area. Provide clothing and job contacts
- Help to service those who come to the shelters for services but are living with family or friends.
- The goal of all shelters is to make the stays short term (don't really know what that means in terms of days or weeks). Therefore, there is a real need for people/families to be brought into people's homes for shelter and encouragement as they seek to put their lives back together.

This is the latest update we have on hurricane relief. Soon (week's end) we will have a specific voice mail number set up at the Presbytery office for leaving messages and for hearing information. The Presbytery Disaster Assistance & Response Team is coordinating all efforts and communications concerning disaster response at this time through the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta office (404) 898-0711 x127. Here is what we know:

1. REQUESTS WHICH NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:

§ **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** in Louisville (General Assembly) sent this immediate need.

There is a need for a warehouse in the Atlanta area, capable of serving 18-wheel semi's. If any church has a member who would consider donating warehouse space for the relief effort, contact Susan at 1-888-PCUSA2U - ext. 5840 immediately. Because of the location and accessibility of Atlanta, this would be most helpful to them. They have a warehouse set up in Houston and one forming in Little Rock. This area could help handle needs from the SE portion of the country and would be a collection center for kits, etc. which are being collected to be sent to locations of greatest need.

§ The **ELCA Disaster Response Coordinator** requests tents, lots of tents, 800-1,000 as they work to set up a "tent city" for survivors and volunteers near Long Beach MS. Contact Elaine Schwartz if you have tents to donate at eschwartz@elca-ses.org.

§ If **your church opens as a shelter**, of your own volition, you are requested to **immediately** call your local public health agency for inspection and DFACS. They will not shut down the shelter but have a *very high concern* for diseases, which are coming into Georgia with the migration of displaced persons. They will give advice on food handling and medical needs.

§ There is a huge need for transportation between hospitals and shelters and shelters and service centers (and we are assuming that there will be others places as well as time goes on). If you have a church van and drivers who can help in this arena, please

email Gay Alston: at (404) 898-0711 x127 galston@presbyteryofgreateratl.org. There is a chance that there *may* be reimbursement through FEMA but we are making no promises.

2. The following are shelters that we know of that are open and have occupants.
 - Cobb County – Lost Mountain Park, Randy Coggins, 770-528-8885
 - Coweta County – Central Baptist, Thad Spates, 770-683-8909
 - Dekalb County – Atlanta Temple Salvations Army Shelter, Allen Hofer, 404-550-4985
 - Fulton County – Georgia Tech Alexander Memorial Coliseum, Brenda Robbins, 404-289-2329
 - Troup County –Tatum School Building (LaGrange), Sylvester Royal, 770-815-4049
 - Walton County – Corinth Christian Church, Shery Marone, 770-267-3534 (No occupants at this time)

The goal is to get people and families out of shelters as soon as possible and into a more stable family environment. Please contact the shelters directly if you are interested in helping but let the presbytery know that you have engaged in this by calling (404) 898-0711 x127 or galston@presbyteryofgreateratl.org.

3. Adoption means taking families into your homes for an extended period of time while they either find work to re-locate or are given the okay to return to their former homes. Adoption means feeding, clothing, getting children into school, helping adults find jobs, attending to their spiritual and emotional needs, etc.
4. All persons who come to Atlanta from Hurricane Katrina areas should check in with a Red Cross Service Center. We have a specific list of these processing and services centers. Even if people are staying with family members or friends or in a motel at their own expense, they are eligible for Red Cross vouchers and medical attention. Red Cross Centers are different than Shelters in that their assistance covers immediate needs (temporary lodging, food, clothing, first aid, comfort kits, replacement of prescription medicines and essential health supplies) and recovery needs (bedding/linen, housing/rent, Disaster Health Services and Mental Health Counseling, and referrals.). They are located:

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| Eastern District Office | 3486 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 |
| Northeastern District | 850 Hi-Hope Rd., Lawrenceville, GA |

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| Office | 30043 |
| Northwestern District Office | 324 Victory Dr., SE, Marietta, GA 30060 |
| McDonough Presbyterian Church | 427 McGarrity Rd., McDonough, GA 30252 |
| Adamsville Service Center | 3201 Martin L. King, Jr. Dr., Atlanta, GA 30331 |

5. Please be sure that you are assisting persons through referrals from hospitals of the American Red Cross. This does not downplay personal and human needs, rather it suggests that we need to be sure that people are receiving the care to which they are entitled.
6. Gay Alston in the presbytery office is collecting information on what specific congregations are doing with relief efforts. We will be posting these on our web site soon. Please email your (short) story to Gay:
galston@presbyteryofgreateratl.org.
7. Fahed Abu-Akel is traveling in Egypt with Arab students from Georgia Tech but will be back in Atlanta next Tuesday to work with international students. He is already engaged in the process. Isn't email capability wonderful!
8. Remember to check out <http://pcusa.org/> regularly to get updates on needs, where to send kits, what should be in kits, volunteer opportunities, locating persons, checking up on congregations in the affected areas, etc.
9. Remember: **100%** of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance special offering and donations goes to the relief effort. Please make sure that the following information is on your donation check:

Acc't #DR-000169 Hurricane Katrina and mail check to:

**Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
Attn: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance & Response
1024 Ponce de Leon Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30306**