

The CSBG Network Acts as a First Responder to Assist Hurricane Katrina and Rita Evacuees

To date, the nationwide Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Network has assisted over 230,000 evacuees by providing them with services such as employment, housing, education, nutrition, and referrals. The CSBG Network is also preparing to assist with the long term needs of evacuees as they reestablish/relocate. A more detailed overview of services provided and narratives from the states and agencies providing services are listed below.

Immediate assistance:

Summary of services include, but aren't limited to transportation, food, non-perishable items, housing services, job placement, clothing, and other needed services. CAAs in Texas continue to coordinate relief efforts with other provider agencies including FEMA and the Red Cross. The CSBG state offices in Texas prepared for emergency relief efforts for the potential resulting effects from Hurricane Rita as well.

CAAs are receiving requests for: gasoline (to help look for a job), housing, water and utility deposits, job assistance (uniforms, medical check-ups, etc)

Long term:

CSBG Self-Sufficiency Programs/Case Management Services

CAAs in nearly all states have created a formal program for a limited number of participants. These Family Development or Self-Sufficiency programs offer a continuum of services to assist families in becoming more financially independent. They generally include a comprehensive, case management approach to selecting and offering supportive services that promote, empower and nurture the individuals and families seeking economic self-sufficiency. At a minimum, they include the following elements:

- A comprehensive assessment of the issues facing the family or family members and of the resources the family brings to address these issues;
- A written plan for becoming more financially independent and self-supporting;
- A comprehensive mix of services that are selected to help the participant implement the plan;
- Professional staff members who are flexible and can establish trusting, long-term relationships with program participants; and
- A formal methodology used to track and evaluate progress as well as to adjust the plan as needed.

Specifically services include:

Employment, housing (shelter, rent assistance, homeownership), child care, asset building, financial management, transportation, health (client pursues stable employment CAA provides health benefits) and nutrition (children and adults - dental clinics and medical clinics), education, home repair, counseling, substance abuse assistance, micro enterprise, etc.

Description of services in greater detail:

- Support for former TANF recipients who are preparing to leave the income support program or who have already left and need further support to find or maintain employment;
- Support for job retention, including counseling, training and supportive services such as transportation, child care and even purchase of uniforms or work clothing;
- Skills training, job application assistance, resume writing and job placement;
- On-the-job training and opportunities for work in agency programs;
- Job development, including finding employers willing to recruit through the agency, facilitating interviews, creating job banks and providing counseling to employees, and projects to develop new employment opportunities in the community;
- Vocational training for high school students and creation of internships and summer jobs;
- Adult employment training, including computer skills and electronics training. recruitment of uninsured children to the State Children's Health Insurance Program(SCHIP);
- Recruitment of volunteer medical personnel to assist uninsured low-income families;
- Prenatal care, maternal health and infant health screening;
- Assistance with pharmaceutical donation programs;
- Health-related information for all ages, including Medicare/Medicaid enrollment and claims filing;
- Immunization;
- Periodic screening for serious health problems, such as tuberculosis, breast cancer and
- HIV infection, and for mental health disorders;
- Health screening of all children participating in agency programs;
- Treatment for substance abuse;
- Other health services including dental care, health insurance advocacy, CPR training, and education about wellness, obesity and first-aid; and/or

- Transportation to health care facilities and medical appointments.

CSBG Network Narratives:

CSBG Helps Families Make Long-lasting Changes for a Better Life

(Idaho) When Rose first enrolled in the CSBG-funded Family Development Program at El-Ada, Inc., she was homeless after fleeing an abusive marriage and living in her truck with her three children. All of the area shelters were full, and staying with her drug-using family was not safe. Rose was also disabled from a brain aneurysm and several brain surgeries; the only source of income for the four of them was her \$684 monthly SSI check. Rose feared that Child Protection would take her children at any moment. The El-Ada Family Development Specialist (FDS) reassured her and helped her bargain with a friend to sleep on the floor in return for providing her family's own food and doing all of the housework. Rose was given a CSBG-funded Emergency Food Box to meet her family's needs for the first week. Then Rose began to plan her path toward self-sufficiency as a full participant in the Family Development Program. Rose had abandoned a Section 8 housing voucher six months earlier because she was unable to understand and complete the legal paperwork required to remove her abusive spouse from the program and retain their voucher. Her specialist helped her submit paperwork to the local Public Housing Authority and accompanied her to appointments to advocate on her behalf. In just a few short weeks, the Section 8 housing voucher was returned to her. Rose and the children moved to a safe apartment as soon as her specialist secured a grant that would pay for a security deposit. El-Ada CSBG Family Development funds were used to assist her with move-in expenses such as furniture and bedding. Once she was housed, her Family Development Specialist helped her sign up for LIHEAP energy assistance and for Telephone Assistance. She began psychological counseling for victims of domestic violence. Rose took her abusive spouse to court and was awarded child support. She worked until she had sufficient stability to plan for a better future. Next, CSBG funded Educational Resource Assistance paid part of her admission fees to Boise State, where she is now studying Criminal Justice. Rose still depends on her Section 8 housing and her monthly disability check to get by, but she looks forward to the day that she can make it without any help. Rose says she was tired of being poor and being a victim; now she plans to fight for other women suffering from abuse, homelessness, and disabilities.

In the typical program, trained case managers help families analyze their economic, social, medical and educational needs and goals. Families develop a formal plan, usually written, containing the activities they will undertake and the services the CAA will provide, or coordinate with other providers, to help them attain their goals. Typically, a family receives one or more kinds of support for at least several months. CAAs in 52 states reported that they spent more than \$93 million from CSBG on self-sufficiency programs. This figure is 12% higher than in FY 2003 and continues an eight-year long growth trend in CSBG investments in such initiatives.

CSBG and the Faith Community - Partnering for Success in Pittsburgh

(Pennsylvania) The Allegheny County Department of Human Services provides CSBG funds to North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO), an interfaith, non-profit organization that addresses ‘the spiritual, emotional, physical, and material needs of people in crisis, hardship, and poverty.’ President George W. Bush praised the work of the North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) during a visit to Pittsburgh in 2003, saying that they “try to help each needy person get on his feet and see himself or herself as a ‘worthy child of God’.” NHCO provides case management/self-sufficiency services at three of their offices, supported in part by the Community Services Block Grant. The case managers coordinate a variety of NHCO resources, from a food pantry, to employment specialists, to a Family Savings Account program. As motivation to the case management clients, NHCO has designed the “Self-Sufficiency Makes Cents” project. “Self-sufficiency dollars” in varied increments are distributed to participants as they reach specific goals in their self-sufficiency plan. “Dollars” can be redeemed for needed household items, children’s birthday presents, or gift certificates; in 2004, one mother earned a refurbished computer for her family!

Lowering the Cost of Chronic Health Conditions

(North Dakota) Community Action Agencies (CAA) in the eastern part of North Dakota have been able to provide supplies for low-income diabetics who have no other resources available. Four CAAs in the state have partnered with the Dakota Medical Foundation, which received a grant to purchase diabetic supplies for needy individuals. Local agencies or medical facilities refer clients to the CAAs; the CAAs determine the client’s eligibility for the program and provide vouchers to use for their pharmaceutical purchases. CAA staff also help clients to access patient assistance programs available through pharmaceutical companies to reduce the cost of their other prescriptions. CSBG funds cover the staff time, administrative time and operational costs of the CAAs in providing this program. The foundation grant is used only for the purchase of the diabetic supplies.

(Tennessee) AMOS, Affordable Medicine Options for Seniors, is an education and advisory service intended to help low- and moderate-income seniors significantly reduce the costs of their prescription medicines. Trained volunteers assist seniors to join programs that provide free or discounted resources, including prescriptions drugs. Volunteers also conduct educational sessions in a variety of locations that provide information about public and private programs. By helping independent seniors obtain affordable medicines and maintain their health, AMOS helps maintain seniors in their independent living arrangements. Tennessee’s Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (KCCAC) convened the Prescription Drug Task Force in September 2001. It found that area seniors were spending a disproportionate amount of their income on medications and often skipped their medications to cover other costs of living. AMOS and the task force member agencies partnered with the local chapter of the AARP, Knox County Health Department, Interfaith Clinic, and several other social service agencies serving seniors to recruit volunteers. CSBG contributed staff and program supports to the

program by initiating and staffing the Task Force, writing proposals, fund raising, hiring and supervising staff, developing protocols and procedures for training volunteers.

KCCAC also provides case management services with support from CSBG. Additional FY 2004 funding from Mayor Ragsdale's Senior Summit totaled \$35,000. During 2004, AMOS volunteers were in contact with 500 new individuals and provided individual consultation services to 233 seniors. Knox County Seniors saved over \$100,000 in prescription costs thanks to AMOS. One example of the program's success is Mrs. S, 70, who lived on a poverty level income with her 94 year old mother in their family home. Both women required daily medications for chronic health conditions. Mrs. S contacted the KKCAC Office on Aging for assistance. An AMOS volunteer helped her obtain government and private assistance to lower her medication expense. Mrs. S was also referred to Project LIVE, the CSBG program that assists homebound, low-income seniors. All these interventions added up to savings of \$190 per month, a significant help to these two vulnerable senior citizens. The success of AMOS has inspired similar programs in other areas. For example, St. Mary's Health System (one of the original AMOS partners) received a grant to develop a similar program at their facilities in two adjacent counties.

Employment Programs Succeed When They Offer and Draw from Many Resources

(Colorado) Employment First helps the workforce support system respond to low-income, unskilled job seekers looking for full-time employment in Weld County. Lack of financial resources presents barriers to many who cannot afford transportation to get to work, lack education and/or have disabilities. The Weld County Department of Human Services uses CSBG funds to help job seekers obtain the resources needed for full-time employment – including eyeglasses, ESL/GED supplies, health exams, transportation vouchers, and uniforms. The FY 2004 program aided 538 individuals in securing full-time employment with benefits. (Missouri) Opportunity for low-wage workers in Marshall was created by a former resident who has developed the digital technology to transcribe raw videos shot on location for unscripted reality-type television programs—the first step in the editing process. When Marshall acquired a high-speed Internet connection, Keri DeWitt's Los Angeles-based company, Teresis, contacted community leaders about bringing the at-home transcription jobs back from overseas. Missouri Valley Community Action Agency (MVCAA) linked its resources with several community partners to provide the unique training requirements. Using approximately \$25,000 of CSBG funding MVCAA provided staffing for planning, coordinating, and fundraising to develop the Central Missouri Technology and Skills Training Center, which opened in June 2004.

The new training center has a 13-station computer lab with DSL hook-up and a training room, which is also available for other types of technology and employability training. CSBG will support the staff providing job training and managing the center. The other financial partner in the project is the Marshal-Saline Development Corporation. MVCAA also mobilized other local and private resources including office furniture from the Saline County Commission, computer equipment from Missouri Valley College, and grants

from Con-Agra; the Workforce Development Board of West Central Missouri, and Aquila, a utility company.

(Connecticut) The Bridgeport Jobs Funnel is a collaborative effort with the City of Bridgeport, the Fairfield Council Building and Construction Trades Council and Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. With multiple construction jobs being created in the community, a comprehensive, community-based effort to create a pool of qualified and skilled construction workers from Bridgeport was implemented. During the recruitment phase, community based organizations assisted in identifying participants. Then, the participants were given a comprehensive assessment to identify additional training opportunities such as GED or high school equivalency programs and ESL classes. During the pilot program, more than 200 trainees were eligible for recruitment, of which 50 were placed in construction jobs in Bridgeport. The program was repeated twice in 2004. After the success of the pilot program, CSBG funds for FY 2005 have been coordinated with funds from other sources to keep the program going.

Narratives featured in the NASCSP monthly newsletter:

The Florida CSBG Network's Response to the Call to Duty

The Florida Community Assistance Section of the Division of Housing and Community Development has released \$100,000 in CSBG funds for farm worker assistance. In addition the Florida Community Assistance Section has released the 2% of LIHEAP funds that must be held in a "Weather Related/Supply Shortage" category. These funds are specifically for emergency events. The funds allow for a higher benefit to applicants.

Many members of the Florida CSBG Network have been assisting evacuees. For instance, Palm Beach County Community Action used LIHEAP funds to pay for electric deposits for families who are re-locating to Florida and CSBG funds to do the same for water utility deposits. The local Red Cross Chapter took walk-in clients and provided vouchers for hotels, food, clothing, and medicine. Community Action staff is making sure that families in need are aware of all of the local resources. Efforts are being coordinated on a county wide basis by the Center for Information and Crisis -211- the countywide information and referral line. Palm Beach County Community Action is identifying available housing for families who plan to stay in Palm Beach County.

The Rhode Island CSBG Network's Response to the Call to Duty

Rhode Island has received a total of approximately 200 evacuees. Rhode Island has provided housing in the form of newly renovated duplexes along with a mobile one stop resource center which is staffed by state department staff along with Red Cross, FEMA and other social, mental and health services. The housing is located in East Bay Community Action service area and with the support of Rhode Island Community Action Agencies statewide, the resource center is fully staffed. East Bay Community Action has interviewed all evacuees to determine what services beyond the immediate, they need and to assess whether they or a neighboring CAA can provide assistance including medical, Head Start, mental health and employment.

The Arkansas CSBG Network's Response to the Call to Duty

On August 30th, Rose Adams, Executive Director of the Arkansas CAA Association, received the following email from St. Mary CAA, based in Franklin, LA on Highway 90 southwest of New Orleans, addressed to the Office of Human Concern, Inc. (OHC) at Community Action Agency (CAA) in Arkansas:

St. Mary CAA is serving as an Emergency Evaluations Coordinating Agency. We are asking CAAs in the Network to assist us with Pampers, formula, cleaning supplies, bedding for the people who are displaced and will probably not be able to return home for months. Please get the word out to the network. We need all the help we can get.

The OHC leadership met with the OHC fundraiser, Kim Porter, to discuss ways to organize a relief effort for the Franklin, LA CAA. Kim Porter arranged for two trailers (53'), one at Northwest Arkansas Mall and the other at the Frisco Mall in Rogers. Public Service Announcements went out and the OHC relief effort was listed in the Morning News. Arvest Bank set up a donation account and listed OHC on their website as a place to donate for the relief. Within a day the trailers were in position. Staff and volunteers staffed the two collection points most of Labor Day weekend.

Initially, OHC tried to collect only the items requested from Louisiana. But this quickly became problematic as OHC realized that the public at large saw the relief effort from a much broader perspective. Even before the Labor Day weekend, evacuees were traveling into Northwest Arkansas. Newspapers had begun to list needs of the newly opened camps and the public had begun to seek out the closest collection point they could find.

Clothes began to pile up, but demand from the newly established camps in Arkansas and the clothes OHC had collected met evacuee camp needs. Other items came in and where they couldn't be used for Louisiana, they were given to evacuee camps and/or other local relief efforts. For example, three beds that a local bed store donated were turned over to the St. Theodore Episcopal Church of Bella Vista to furnish three apartments for evacuee families.

OHC was now operating as a facilitator of goods and services for the relief effort. Offers came in offering additional housing. Everyone wanted to help. OHC learned in a very short 10 days that OHC's ability to respond to crises was an invaluable tool for local government and for the public. By initially working with its partners, OHC was able to set up a relief effort within 24 hours. More importantly, OHC assisted other entities to engage in the relief effort. As cited before, eight agencies stepped up to help. Lowell Baptist Church led the charge. Not only did the church man the trailer in Rogers, they also paid for a 26 foot van to haul goods south, provided fuel money for two 26' vans and one tractor trailer rig and drivers for one van.

On September 15th, two OHC vans arrived at Franklin, LA. One van was unloaded at Franklin and the second one directed to Smile CAA in Lafayette, LA (Hwy 10). When the van arrived at Smile CAA (Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin Parish), they were greeted

with excitement, as they had not been able to receive relief goods. The Tractor-trailer is going to Haynesville, LA to Claiborne Parish Police Jury Office of Community Service now located in Homer, LA (Northern Louisiana).

Free Voice Mail Available to People Displaced by Hurricane Katrina

People who have been displaced by hurricane Katrina in Minnesota (MN) receive a *free*, personal voice mail box with a toll-free contact number from Twin Cities Community Voice Mail. Each person seeking a voice mail box will get an individual, private extension from a toll-free 1-800-number telephone system. Those using the system can leave messages and record announcements, updating concerned callers on their location and status. They also can receive messages from loved ones. The survivors of hurricane Katrina will be able to use their numbers as an important step toward reestablishing bonds with family and friends.

Twin Cities Community Voice Mail (TCCVM) has 11 years of providing this reliable means of communication to acquire housing, jobs, and health care. In those 11 years, over 39,000 people in crisis across the state of Minnesota have received free, personal voice mail numbers from TCCVM.

This initiative by TCCVM in MN is partially funded by the MN CSBG office and is part of a national effort of community voice mail programs located in 37 U.S. cities. Nationally, 80,000 voice mail numbers will be available with technology and software provided by the Cisco Systems Foundation, the SBC Foundation, and Microsoft and national coordination with the American Red Cross.

For further information, please contact Twin Cities Community Voice Mail at 651-643-0883 or by e-mail at tccvm@tccvm.org.

Hurricane Katrina Restoration 2005, Gulf Coast CAA, Inc.

The Gulf Coast CAA, Inc. in Mississippi proposes to complete minor repairs to approximately 45 homes during the week of October 23-31, 2005. The area where the agency has chosen to focus the project is predominately low-income and composed of 250 homes that sustained flooding and wind damages. This area is called Turnkey. The elderly, disabled and those families having children below the age of 12 will be the primary focus. In observance of Weatherization month, they will also target one or two homes for full weatherization measures.

This project will be a collaborative effort with the Baptist Men's group out of North Carolina, Victory Temple Men's Group out of Jackson, Mississippi, and other volunteers. There will be at least five crews consisting of five plus workers at each site. The Agency's two weatherization contractors and inspector will act as the lead coordinators.

Minor repairs will consist of but will not be limited to:

- Installation of sheetrock four to five feet high throughout the home
- Installation of insulation in attic and walls, where needed
- Minor roof repairs of not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the roof and where only three, not more than four, pieces of plywood is needed and no rafter work in regards to roof repairs.

- Minor shingle and felt replacement

It is estimated that each dwelling will need approximately \$2,500 in material costs.

The Texas CSBG Network's Response to the Call to Duty

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) staff has been part of the response effort by the state of Texas to assist evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Nearly a dozen employees traveled to Houston with Texas *Governor Rick Perry* on Friday, September 2, to assess the situation and begin placing individuals and families in rental properties funded by TDHCA. Anyone currently in Texas as an evacuee may now search the TDHCA website for vacancies in TDHCA properties statewide.

The Community Services Section of TDHCA has made available CSBG Special Emergency Relief Funds to numerous CSBG eligible entities for the provision of emergency assistance for victims of Hurricane Katrina from the states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama that seek refuge in Texas.

This funding is being made available from the State's 5% Reserve for Special Demonstration and Emergency Relief Project Funds. The Texas CSBG office has made available \$129,328 from unexpended FY 2004 funds and \$288,302 from FY 2005 unexpended funds for a total of \$417,630. Contracts have been secured and funds have been released totaling \$305,000 to 12 CSBG eligible entities that have requested monetary assistance for the provision of emergency services for the evacuees. The remainder of these funds (\$112,630) is reserved at this time and will be released on an as needed basis.

These 12 entities are located in the eastern and central part of Texas and include the areas in and around Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Bryan/College Station, Victoria, Nacogdoches, Mount Vernon, Center, Giddings, Beaumont and Galveston. Texas has also been contacted by their eligible entities in Corpus Christi, Austin and Waco and they too are requesting emergency funds to provide assistance to evacuees that have arrived in their service areas.

The emergency assistance provided with these funds included food, water, clothing, bedding, personal hygiene items, pharmaceutical supplies, emergency shelter and fuel.

Lewis County Opportunities Community Action Agency Continues to Respond to the Needs of Katrina Evacuees

According to Karl Reutling, Chief Executive Officer of the Lewis County Opportunities Community Action Agency in Lowville, NY, not a day goes by that Lewis County CAP doesn't receive a correspondence from its rural community members who are interested in helping Katrina evacuees. Having been thru ice storms, flooding, several blizzards, and more, community residents know what it is to be in need and to loose all possessions to natural circumstances beyond your control. Therefore, Lewis County CAP and community members adopted Holmes County in Mississippi to assist in hurricane relief efforts. By using an "adoption model" Lewis County CAP is able to ensure that the

supplies and funding they send to Holmes County will go directly to those most in need without a lot of overhead or administrative expense.

Remarkably, Lewis County, which is comprised of only 27,000 residents, has raised more than \$3000 to assist Katrina evacuees. And, just recently, the Lewis County CAP sent their “first” tractor trailer load of relief items, packed by agency workers, volunteers, and the seniors at a local high school, to their adopted county. The CAP also plans to collaborate with community members to organize school dance fundraisers, increased volunteerism, create a better relationship with local emergency management and planning, and continue their adoptive relationships with their rural counterpart agencies in the affected areas.

Chief Executive Officer Karl Reutling’s only desire now is “that these newly awakened compassions for the poor and stricken will be long lasting and thus create some necessary social change.” Fore more information please contact Karl Reutling by phone at 315-376-8202 or by email at dpo@lcopps.org. Also, check out their website: <http://lewiscountyopportunities.com>.

New York State Community Action Agencies Continue to Assist Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

ACCORD Corporation:

Accord Corporation’s Community Action Angels program is collecting donations of cash, gift cards and personal care items at all of its locations. ACCORD is collaborating with NYSCAA, the National Community Action Partnership, Allegany County, the United Way, the American Red Cross, Allegany County School Districts, the Friendship House Community Resource Center and Alfred State College.

Cattaraugus Community Action:

Cattaraugus Community Action has collected both donations and commodities which are being sent to NYSCAA for distribution to the affected areas. Additionally they are the HUD Continuum of Care lead for Cattaraugus County, and they are working with their housing consortium to identify housing unit vacancies and report those back to HUD as they become available for evacuees. They are working with the Salvation Army, Red Cross, and two other local churches to identify priority needs and channel donations to them and to NYSCAA.

JCEO of Clinton and Franklin Counties:

JCEO has donated \$1,000.00 to the relief effort through NYSCAA and has also promised 51 backpacks filled with school supplies that can be sent to the affected areas.

Community Action Organization of Erie County:

Community Action of Erie County has focused on the evacuees who will be relocating to their area. They are assigning three case workers to work with those families until they have been stably resettled, which includes transitional housing, school entrance, identification-credit card-bankcard-birth certificate and other document re-creation, income stabilization, and social connections. Additionally, they are assembling emergency food baskets that will be distributed to evacuees and will have their Neighborhood Service Workers visit each family.

Adirondack Community Action Programs:

ACAP has donated \$1,000.00 to the relief effort through NYSCAA.

ComLinks:

ComLinks is partnering with the local Rotary, which will allocate \$10,000.00 to the relief effort and has begun developing a partnership with Rotary International to adopt a community. Additionally, ComLinks is seeking to send workers to the affected area to assist in the re-building effort and has several housing units that they have offered for use by evacuees.

Fulmont Community Action Agency:

Fulmont Community Action is accepting both cash donations and commodities at their offices in Fort Plain, Amsterdam, Gloversville, Northville and Fonda from September 16th to the 23rd.

Community Action for Greene County, Inc.:

On Friday, September 16, 2005, Community Action of Greene County will hold a "tag day" at the Rip Van Winkle Bridge in Catskill from 8 AM – 4 PM. All monies collected will be forwarded to NYSCAA for distribution to State Associations in the affected areas. The Bank of Greene County has donated space to sort change and bank employees will count and roll the change. The United Way of Columbia and Greene Counties will be providing volunteers for the effort.

CAPC of Jefferson County:

CAPC has been in regular contact with their local American Red Cross Chapter and the other disaster relief agencies in the county. Nine families have relocated to Jefferson County from the Gulf Coast region and CAPC will advise as services are rendered.

Lewis County Opportunities:

Lewis County Opportunities is working with the Lewis County Government to provide assistance to Holmes County Mississippi. Lewis County is accepting monetary donations (currently in excess of \$3,000.00) and they have also collected 1 ½ truck loads of commodities to be transported to Holmes County by a volunteer driver. Additionally, Lewis County Opportunities employees are seeking to assist a partner CAP in Louisiana which is as of yet unidentified.

Livingston County Planning Department:

Livingston County is participating in a cooperative effort with SUNY Geneseo students and local clergy to "adopt" a community impacted by Katrina. It's in the early planning stages and the community has not yet been identified. Also, a member of the Planning Department staff is one of two County employees leading an effort to collect funds for the Red Cross for Katrina.

Newburgh Community Action Committee:

Newburgh Community Action Committee is providing referral service to assist individuals and agencies regarding support available for Katrina victims. They have helped an agency ship medical supplies and have also helped an individual with clothing and bedding. They have offered their support to the County DSS office in providing for the relocation of 50 families announced by the County Executive as Orange County's contribution. They are awaiting a response in order to determine their precise role.

Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.:

Niagara Community Action Program is conducting the "Four Freedoms Community Awareness Campaign." The "Four Freedoms" is a series of Norman Rockwell artwork that was first made famous by Franklin Roosevelt in a speech to Congress in 1941. Niagara Community Action is offering a limited, collectable edition of prints in two sizes (each with a commemorative stamp) produced on fine art canvas and framed. The costs to purchase the prints are as follows: Master - \$115.00 + \$5.00 shipping; Executive - \$90.00 + \$5.00 shipping; and, a set of four \$320.00 + \$14.00 shipping. Proceeds from the sales will be donated to the Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort. Additionally, Niagara Community Action has provided a set of prints that will be raffled at the Conference in Corning. To view the prints, please visit the following website page:

www.niagaracap.org/documents/NiacapFourFreedomsOrderForm2.pdf

Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.:

Currently collaborating with local Rotary groups and have agreed to explore funding of shelter boxes (each box contains a tent sized for ten people, sleeping bags, cots, a cooking stove and utensils, water purification system and personal effects). Additionally, Oswego County Opportunities has schedules a staff fund raising effort for September 17th.

Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.:

Opportunities for Otsego is collecting donations for distribution to the Louisiana and Mississippi State Community Action Associations.

CEO for the Greater Capital Region:

CEO has done a 50-50 raffle and has collected donations from staff and Board members to submit to NYSCAA.

Rural Opportunities, Inc.:

Rural Opportunities is focusing on farm workers emergency relocation and housing redevelopment.

Saratoga County EOC:

Saratoga EOC has met with businesses and faith based groups in Saratoga to solicit baby items and bedding that can be utilized in the relief effort. They have asked churches, businesses, and families to donate any of the following items:

- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Baby powder
- Bedding for children and adults.

They have agreements from several businesses and churches to serve as drop off sites. Announcements will be made at the churches, and the press release will be in the papers by September 18th and donors can drop off items at 7 locations from 9/18 through 9/ 26.

Schenectady Community Action:

Schenectady Community Action has: added Hurricane Katrina donation information to it's website; collected cash donations that will be forwarded to the Louisiana Community Action Association; agreed with the United Way to coordinate the distribution of cash assistance to victims should the need arise; Head Start slots will be made available to victims should the need arise; and has contacted various groups regarding the inventory of available housing.

Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc.:

Schoharie County Community Action is working directly with evacuees that have been located in their service area. They working through their Family Development Dept. determining what needs the families have and are helping to coordinate services.

ProAction of Steuben & Yates, Inc.:

Pro-Action of Steuben and Yates Counties has been focusing on partnering with local efforts and they have begun collecting goods, clothes, baby items, etc. Additionally, Pro-Action has an area trucking company who has volunteered to make trips as often as trucks can be filled. A large restaurant in central Steuben has agreed to be a collection/holding point where trucks will do pick ups in order to keep things centralized. Pro-Action has also been in contact with the Red Cross, both County Administrators and the DSS Commissioners and have spread the word on directing names/addresses/phone #s to our organization when anyone becomes aware of families relocating to our Counties

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program:

St. Lawrence County CDP has been working in conjunction with a local church to collect clothing; household items; etc. for re-distribution to the south.

Additionally, they have reviewed their inventory of goods at the Neighborhood Centers for items that can be donated and they have also met with other community organizations to organize efforts and plan activities. A donation to NYSCAA for distribution to the affected states is planned.

CACHE:

CACHE employees have sent donations to various agencies assisting evacuees and have also contributed to southern Community Action Partnerships.

Tioga Opportunities Program, Inc.:

Tioga Opportunities is working with local agencies to collect both cash and goods. They have a temporary storage facility and are confirming arrangements for transport. They have also identified seven housing vacancies and have been in contact with USDA.

Washington County EOC:

Washington County EOC has begun fund raising efforts begun through their Community Action Angels Program and their Head Start / Early Head Start Policy Council has voted to donate \$1,000.00 to the relief effort.

Westchester Community Opportunity Program:

Westchester Opportunities is coordinating with their local DSS and has offered their services as part of a coordinated response effort.

Wyoming County Community Action Agency:

Community Action for Wyoming County has a total of five 3 and 4 bedroom homes available for evacuees in need of housing and who wish permanent or temporary relocation to the Western New York area. Community Action Angels are prepared to provide the following assistance to these five families.

- Furniture/appliances
- Clothing
- Food
- Personal Care Items
- Children's Needs ex. School supplies, toys, recreational items etc.
- Transportation
- Job Training and Employment Search Assistance
- Mentoring

Community Action for Wyoming County is making available their Angel Volunteer outreach building. This is a 60x70 ft. building which can be used as a distribution point for "new" donated items that will be solicited from our area as well as for agencies with donated items to be shipped through NYSCAA. The Community Action Angel Volunteer Program Coordinator has designed a graphic and tag line along with two simple fundraising ideas that would help to engage the community at large to maximize our efforts in New York State.

They are in the process of developing a third fundraising project for the Angel Volunteer Membership or anyone who wishes to take part. This involves a candy bar sale, with custom wrapping that will market Community Action and our cause, and if used statewide and in unison by “all” Community Action agencies could raise a minimum of \$25,000.00 in a couple of weeks with very little effort or strain on staff. Imagine the projection for a nationwide effort lead by New York.

Their volunteer youth, United Schools in Action, are coordinating a fundraising drive that will involve three school systems. Money will be collected at sporting events and students are actively involved in planning more activities on their own. All Wyoming County Schools will be soliciting new items from the request list during the coming weeks.

Volunteers have mailed out over 200 letters of request for money to area churches and businesses and have conducted a Divine Delight Fundraiser in partnership with ARC.

New York State Community Action Association:

NYSCAA has been working to coordinate the efforts of the member Agencies. Our website contains donation information for both members and non-members. As donations are collected they will be sent to the State Associations for the affected region for re-distribution to the CAAs there.

Through the website NYSCAA has made contact with several groups that have pledged donations or are working to do fundraisers. One such contact is Frost Elementary School in East Brunswick, New Jersey. The school has done a drive to collect items that can be sent to the Gulf Region. The items are being shipped to NYSCAA. Additionally, several local bands will be putting on an a fundraiser at the park in Scotia this Saturday and all the donations received have been pledged to NYSCAA for the relief effort.

*To learn more about New York State Hurricane Katrina relief efforts visit:
<http://66.135.40.138/nyscaa/katrinarelief/index.htm>*