

September, 2008

Brothers,

Recent storms remind us that you can't reason with hurricane season and that there's always a need for service in every corner of our nation and the world. It is frustrating to learn of devastation and not be able to help immediately; it's even harder when you are directly affected and are wondering if people you love are OK.

People like you, people who share our commitment to leadership, friendship and service — many of them volunteers, probably some brothers — are on the front lines right now helping individuals in need; this is truly service to our nation. **Here on www.apo.org, we have posted contact information for organizations leading individuals in the relief efforts, and some possible ways your chapter can help with the efforts regardless of where you are located.**

Service happens when your skills and willingness to share them intersect with the needs around you. Some of us will help meet local needs caused by hurricanes; many of us will support national relief efforts to meet the needs. Today and every day we are comforted to know that Alpha Phi Omega's service — that of chapters and that of individual brothers — makes the world a better place in which to make a living and a life.

Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you who now join in service to our nation — thank you! We all especially think of those of you who are facing the loss of loved ones and the places you love.

Yours in Leadership, Friendship and Service,



Maggie Katz
National President



Carla Moran
Service and Communication Director

Note: Please use the APO Service Database to tell us about any hurricane/disaster related projects you participate in. You can search the database to see projects other chapters have done — below are some great projects chapters organized after Hurricane Katrina hit a few years ago:

Collection of Health Care & Bedding Items for Hurricane Victims (*Alpha Gamma/Purdue University*):
http://www.apo.org/show/National_Programs/Service/Project_Database/View_Projects/Project_Details?project_id=1124

Soccer Tournament Fundraiser for Red Cross (*Alpha Alpha Zeta/Saint Mary's University*):
http://www.apo.org/show/National_Programs/Service/Project_Database/View_Projects/Project_Details?project_id=1737

Water/Fundraising Drive for U.S. Veterans (*Tau Zeta/Texas Southern University*):
http://www.apo.org/show/National_Programs/Service/Project_Database/View_Projects/Project_Details?project_id=1110

Click Here to Report a Project to the Service Database:
http://www.apo.org/show/National_Programs/Service/Project_Database/Service_Project_Report_Form
-Choose the category “Emergency Response Project” in the “Project Type” field for hurricane/disaster related projects.

ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS



**American
Red Cross**

AMERICAN RED CROSS

1-800-REDCROSS

<http://www.redcross.org/>

Offers neutral humanitarian care...with the aim of preventing and relieving suffering.

“(Providing) basic life-saving necessities to residents is the top priority of the Red Cross in the early days of this storm. The Red Cross is committed to keeping people as comfortable as possible until they are able to return home...The Red Cross is: Preparing nearly 500 shelters across the country to provide a safe haven for evacuees. Mobilizing more than 4,000 Red Cross disaster relief workers. Ready to deliver nearly one million meals...”

Donate Blood: www.givelife.org or 1-800-GIVE-LIFE

Donate Money: http://american.redcross.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntld_main

Text “GIVE” to “2HELP” (24357) to donate \$5



SALVATION ARMY

<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>

1-800-SAL-ARMY

Seeks to meet human needs without discrimination.

“Response teams are providing food and water, emotional and spiritual care and ongoing support for the sheltering and transport of those who have evacuated. Wind and water damage, downed power lines and water outages, which are expected to last for several more days, have created a significant need for food and water in those areas as responders work to repair infrastructure and get businesses re-opened.”

Donate Money: <https://secure.salvationarmy.org/donations.nsf/donate?openform&projectid=USS-hseason2008-3>



AID MATRIX NETWORK

<http://www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/CashDonations/Default2.aspx?ST=FEMA>

Technology that connects donors with relief organizations.

“This page includes (links to) the members of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster and additional organizations active in disaster relief.”



FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

<http://www.fema.gov/>

<http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/howtohelp.shtm>

The federal agency charged with responding to, planning for, recovering from all domestic disasters.

“Individual and community preparedness are the responsibility of everyone...residents and businesses along the Southeastern Atlantic coast...should closely follow news and weather reports and be aware of evacuation and sheltering orders in their communities...”

STATE BY STATE

Alabama: <http://www.servealabama.gov/>

“...accepting offers of goods, volunteers, and financial donations.”

Florida: <http://www.fccs.org/>

“Florida is hosting evacuees from the Gulf Coast.

CARE: The Very Best Way to Help

Cash - Financial gifts get help to people fast

Ask before collecting items that may not be needed

Respond by volunteering with a local relief agency

Everyone can help. Go to a local volunteer center”

Louisiana: <http://www.volunteerlouisiana.gov/1800Vol/OpenIndexAction.do>

“Volunteer opportunities in Louisiana are being posted daily in response to Hurricane Gustav....Volunteers are asked to not self-deploy to the disaster area. Now is the time to give financially or get connected with a local relief organization.”

Mississippi: <http://www.mississippirelief.com/>

“...the state’s central clearinghouse for corporations, organizations, and individuals to make financial donations to the hundreds of thousands of Mississippians who are recovering from the devastation.”

Texas: <http://www.texasresponds.org/>

“...the State of Texas portal for cash donations to organizations assisting in disasters, offers of non-cash donations to organizations assisting in disasters, and information and a registry for those wanting to volunteer...”

WAYS ALPHA PHI OMEGA CAN BE OF SERVICE DURING HURRICANE SEASON

1) Raise Funds For A Charity Helping With Relief Efforts.

- This could be as simple as placing a donation can in the student union or as involved as a silent auction as part of your National Service Week project (Serving Adults with Disabilities) later in the semester.
- Connect with local chapters of national charities (Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.) to see if there are particular efforts you can help with.
- Later, there may be a need for food and/or other items you can collect so continue to check the charities' Web sites.

2) Support Local Volunteers Assisting With Relief Efforts.

- Connect with local chapters of national charities (Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.) to see if there are local volunteers heading to/returning from the disaster area who you can support in various ways (care packages, welcome home celebrations, etc.)
- Some of you may be in areas where eventually there will be a need for you to serve on site — see if there are things you can do now to prepare for that.

3) Create A Large Card or Banner Thanking Relief Workers and/or to Let Victims Know We're Thinking of Them.

- Have it available in a high traffic area for others to sign.
- Rush plans for tonight? Have it available at your rush/recruitment events — this is a great way to raise awareness of both relief efforts and your chapter's commitment to service.
- Glue a picture of your chapter (wearing APO shirts, etc.) in the card to help personalize this service.
- Connect with an appropriate charity to deliver it. (Note: Sometimes a local church, police department, Red Cross chapter, etc. may be able to get it "on site" through their connections.)

4) Check in With a Friend or Family Member.

- See if there are needs you can help meet for those directly affected by the hurricane, and those affected in other ways. You or others in your chapter may know someone who has had to evacuate, is worrying about the loss of their home, a job, etc.
- People can feel afraid and sad even if they are physically OK — remember that listening to someone's concerns can be a wonderful and much appreciated service.
- Drop a note to someone you care about telling them you're glad they're okay. People can feel "all alone" and it's nice to be reminded that others care during difficult times.
- Respect that people may not be able to immediately respond to e-mail, phone messages, etc. — offer to get in touch with others to share the "I'm okay" message.

5) Donate Blood.

- There is always a need for blood donations: one blood donation can save as many as three lives.
- You may organize a blood drive, or draw attention to a planned drive, in relation to hurricane season.

6) Have A Moment of Silence.

- If you are a chapter that has been directly affected, take a moment to give thanks for those who have been of service during this time.
- If you are a chapter that's not directly affected, at your next chapter meeting, particularly remember our brothers in the Gulf Coast area who are in need and those helping with relief efforts.
- Any chapter may want to take a moment to be grateful for the things we so often take for granted: food, electricity, the ability to contact our loved ones by telephone, and so much more.
- Organize a campus-wide moment of silence followed by a collection or other service initiative in support of the relief efforts.