



SERVICE Above Self **Rotary District 7690** Piedmont, North Carolina, USA

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District Governor 2005-2006
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September 2, 2005
District 7690 Disaster Relief Program
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District 7690 Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Program

Last year, Governor Don Allred reminded us that to lose your money is to lose much. To lose a friend is to lose more. To lose hope is to lose everything. As Rotarians, it is our burden to do what we can to insure our fellow humans always have hope. No one knows the number of people who lost all hope last Monday, when Hurricane Katrina crossed the Gulf Coast. In response to the requests for information concerning our District response to the Hurricane Katrina Disaster I want to discuss briefly three responses that our district and your clubs may want to consider:

District Disaster Relief Fund – Rotary is not an immediate responder organization. Rotary clubs have neither training nor the infrastructure to provide first-response assistance. In keeping with Rotary's capacity to help others, and understanding that the need for relief will continue for many months, if not years,
I believe our most effective opportunity for service is in creating a District Disaster Relief Fund to receive contributions from our clubs. Funds designated for this method of distribution should be sent to the District 7690 Treasurer, payable to Rotary District 7690 - Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. I hope that we can raise \$60,000 - \$70,000 in support of this effort. The district will evaluate the opportunities as they are presented and provide support where we believe it can best be used. Even now districts in or near the disaster area are beginning to respond with solid suggestions for our consideration. We know that a disaster of this magnitude will require our financial assistance for months into the future. If District 7690 had been the scene of this disaster I would hope that Rotary clubs in other area would want to help our clubs with their special projects that will be required to help establish the new normalcy. We have had experience with this procedure in 1999-2000 under the leadership of Governor John Haynes. This is his recommendation and I would concur with him that this is our best approach as Rotary clubs and as a District of Rotary International.

ShelterBox - Another opportunity for contribution is to contribute to the ShelterBox program. Last year ShelterBox asked that contributions for ShelterBox be sent to the District Treasurer who will, in turn send one check to ShelterBox. ***Please make checks payable to Rotary District 7690 – ShelterBox Program.*** This will reduce the paperwork required of the ShelterBox program. Visit www.ShelterBoxUSA.org.

American Red Cross or Salvation Army - For those who favor immediate response to the disaster, let me suggest that clubs contribute to the American Red Cross, or to Salvation Army. Although these are appropriate agencies to accept contributions, these agencies are marketed so well at times of disaster that they have no problem soliciting contributions. Never the less, I believe contributions sent to these organizations will be well placed.

For more on Rotary's response to this disaster visit www.rotary.org/.

Please keep me informed about how your Rotary club is responding to this disaster.

Here are some of the thoughts that have occurred to me-

- As an organization, Rotary is not an immediate responder to disaster situations, although individually, many of its members are involved with agencies that serve this role.
- [Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar](#) says that “when organizing your club or district's response to a local or international disaster, we recommend that Rotarians work closely with an experienced disaster relief organization such as the International Federation of the Red Cross.” I would rather see us providing help through organizations such as Red Cross or Salvation Army than try to send our members to the disaster area where they are likely to become part of the problem and not the solution.
- Because disasters seem to be occurring each year we need to consider how to plan for a response the next time this happens. We may wish to consider the following:-
 - The District should establish a Disaster-Relief Committee that will develop a plan of action and will help the governor implement the plan when disaster happens.
 - The District's Rotary Foundation team should investigate setting up a Donor Advised Fund with The Rotary Foundation, with a goal of building that fund in a systematic way. When a disaster occurs the district will have appropriate funds available to respond. Details: www.rotary.org/foundation/development/advisedfunds/index.html

In the midst of the disaster and accompanying tragedy that entangles our Gulf Coast neighbors, it is heart-warming to know that the members and clubs in our district continue to demonstrate the love and magic of Rotary.

Thank you for your commitment to SERVICE Above Self.



Checks should be mailed to:

Rotary District 7690 – Disaster Fund
114 Willoughby Park ● High Point, NC 27265

***See next page
for additional details***



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September 26, 2005
District 7690 Disaster Relief Program

District 7690 Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Program
Details

PDG John Haynes and I wanted to contact DG Steward Vance (D6820-Mississippi) and DG Neil Alford (D6840-Louisiana and Mississippi) to confirm details of our plans for our district's disaster relief program. I hoped I would be able to tell you that contact has been made but that has not happened. We will continue trying to contact Stewart and Neil. Never the less, all indications are that they will be pleased to receive our funds. The following announcement was posted on the Rotary International website on September 13, 2005 that supports the plan that we had suggested on September 2:

*"Mississippi **District 6820** and Louisiana and Mississippi **District 6840** are collecting funds to provide immediate and long-term assistance for community members in the affected areas of Districts 6840 and 6820. All requests for funds will be sponsored by or approved by a local Rotary Club in 6840 or 6820."*

To this end I am requesting that the funds collected in support of this program be sent to *Rotary District 7690 – Disaster Fund, 114 Willoughby Park, High Point, NC 27265 by October 31*. Please indicate "2005 Disaster Relief Program" on your check. Before Thanksgiving we will forward a check to the governors with instruction that the funds be used to support relief efforts of the local clubs of these districts.

To those clubs who are supporting this fund, I am grateful for your generosity. We believe that this is the best way to assure that our funds are distributed to the areas in need. We are comfortable in the belief that each dollar contributed in this way will be used directly in providing relief to those whose lives have been disrupted.

To those clubs who have chosen other ways to provide disaster relief, I thank you too.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Phil Morris".