

What Delaware can do for the Katrina Aid Effort -- September 2005

By: Delaware Congressman Mike Castle

As the nation's eyes look to New Orleans and the surrounding affected Gulf Coast communities, we must all think of the hundreds of thousands of people who have lost everything as a result of Hurricane Katrina, an event which some are calling the "worst natural disaster in our Nation's history." It is during these trying times, such as the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the Tsunami in Southeast Asia this past December, that most of us can see the true human decency that is brought out in most of us by tragedy. We need to muster the same resources and patriotism and provide the same help to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Therefore, I would like to point out some ways in which to be involved in the Katrina relief effort.

There are two main institutions where you can donate financially. First, the Red Cross is accepting donations for the relief effort. You can contact them by calling 1-800-HELPNOW or going to <http://www.redcross.org/> or <http://www.redcrossdelmarva.org/>. There are two Delaware offices, located in Wilmington and Milford and would appreciate any financial assistance that you can afford. Another avenue would be donating to the Delaware Food Bank who is accepting donations to purchase the large quantities of food needed for the thousands of hurricane victims. You can visit www.fbd.org or call 302-292-1305.

There are other ways you can give to the effort without giving money. You can donate blood to the Blood Bank of Delaware or donate clothing and canned food to local churches. It is important to remember how each donation, however small can help a victim of this tragedy in an extraordinary way.

In Washington, we will soon be passing a \$10 billion emergency supplemental appropriations bill for relief effort of Hurricane Katrina. The money will go towards helping cover the costs of rescue efforts and rebuilding projects in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. People can be assured that representatives in Washington will be doing everything they can to ensure the safety and well being of these men, women, and children affected by this disaster as well as supporting the emergency personnel carrying out their dangerous work.

In closing, please remember as you watch this story unfold on television that this tragedy is happening to real people, people like you and me, who now have nowhere to go. Let us join together as we have in the past to help our fellow Americans stand on their feet and rebuild their lives. Every food item, every blanket, every bottle of water, or every dollar you can give will go a long way. I have confidence in all Delawareans that they will step up to the challenge and make a difference.