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Hurricanes: How to help, who's been helping

Sunday, September 25, 2005

Advertisement

Greater Austin

Austin Yellow Bike Project — 5 p.m. Oct. 1. Bikes and locks will be distributed to anyone displaced by the hurricane. Austin Convention Center, west side, Third and Trinity streets. 457-9880, www.austinyellowbike.org.

Georgetown fundraiser — Today . Dinner and silent auction at Cajun Café. All donations will go to the Salvation Army. 3010 Williams Drive, Suite 12, Georgetown. \$75. (512) 931-2111.

Free outdoor screenings in Republic Park — Dusk, Tuesday, Oct. 4 & Oct. 11. Movie screenings presented by the Alamo Draffhouse Cinema, Austin Parks Foundation, Wheatsville Co-op & the Austin Chronicle; donations benefitting the Hurricane Katrina Relief fund will be collected. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe St. Free. www.rollingroadshow.com

Power FM Power Aid — Friday. Gates open 5 p.m., show 6 to 10 p.m. Benefit event with live music by Radial Angel, Circle Slide, Alive and Ephphatha, and more. Portion of proceeds benefits the Salvation Army and Katrina Help Austin. Power FM Studios, 1901 FM 1460, Round Rock. \$3 to \$5. (888) 671-1067.

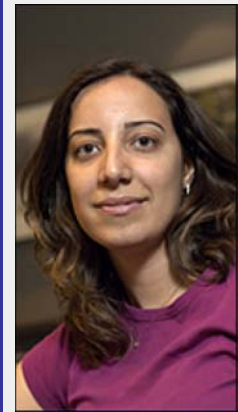
Soccer Fall Festival — 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 1. Sponsor a Dripping Springs Youth Soccer Association player competing in the 'Soccer Saving Lives' team challenge to raise money for the Red Cross. Competitions at noon, 2 p.m. and 3:45 p.m., Dripping Springs Sportsplex. lifeistuff@msn.com.

'Hope' — 7 and 9 p.m. Oct. 6. Conspirare, Craig Hella Johnson and Cynthia Clawson perform; no admission will be charged. All donations benefit the Capital Area Food Bank's Katrina relief effort. Reservations required. The Carillon, 2630 Exposition Blvd. 476-5775.

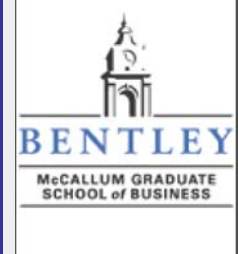
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NOLA On the Blanco: A Hurricane Katrina Benefit for New Orleans Musicians — 6 p.m. Oct. 8. Proceeds from this Hill Country jazz fest will benefit the Tipitina's Foundation Artist Relief Fund. Tickets available beginning Wednesday at the Wimberley Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center, 14100 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley, and the Old Mill Store, Olde Town Square, Wimberley. \$15. Old Glory Ranch, 3633 River Road, Wimberley. www.oldgloryranch.com.

Blankets for the Gulf — Collecting 5,000 handmade blankets by Dec. 1 for hurricane victims. For more information, www.blanketsforthegulf.com.

ACT Exam — ACT registration is providing fee waivers to high school juniors and seniors who are victims of Hurricane Katrina, allowing them to take the college entrance exam in December or February. To receive the fee waiver, students should go to their high school guidance counselor's office and request that an ACT fee waiver form be submitted in their name. Counselors with questions or in need of additional forms can call (866) 763-3228.

Early Childhood Care Services — The Texas Education Agency, in partnership with the Texas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, has created a Web site to help hurricane evacuees residing in Texas locate donated early childhood care services, <http://hancock.tea.state.tx.us/Find/Forms/Find.aspx>. For more detailed information regarding child care placement, call 211. Licensed child care providers willing to donate or offer services at reduced cost should submit their information at https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/Default.asp or email schoolsupplies@tea.state.tx.us.

PICAPS — The Pension Information, Counseling and Assistance Program of the Southwest is opening its hot line to hurricane victims. A variety of free legal services provided by the program, including locating lost pension plans and reviewing pension calculators, are available by calling (888) 343-4414.

Hyde Park Bar & Grill benefit show — Seeking artists and photographers to donate works with subject of New Orleans or the South to this benefit show in which 50 percent of the donor's art sales will benefit the Katrina Relief Fund. Mail photos to P.O. Box 50488, Austin, TX 78763-0488; send JPEGs to aducote@ducotedesigns.com or aducote@austin.rr.com. For more information call 472-2191.

Salvation Army — Needs donations of furniture. Drop off from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at any Salvation Army location: 4216 S. Congress Ave., 1412 S. Lamar Blvd., 13016 N. U.S. 183 and 5329 N. Interstate 35. 476-1111, www.salvationarmyaustin.org.

Jewish Community Association of Austin — Accepting donations to help evacuees in Austin; send checks to Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, JCAA, 7300 Hart Lane, Austin, TX, 78731, or make an online donation at www.jcaaonline.org. Evacuees may contact Jewish Family Service for assistance at 250-1043.

Operaton Move In — Needs volunteers with pickups, vans or other vehicles to sort and package furniture for families moving from the convention center to apartments. For locations, dates and times, call Anne Wingle at 480-0990 or 567-5816.

Texas Interfaith Disaster Response — Asking for donations of \$250 or as much as possible for its 'Katrina 100 Percent Direct Aid Fund'; all funds will be used to help families establish a household in a new community. Send checks to: Texas Interfaith Disaster Response, 6909 W. Courtyard Drive, Austin, TX, 78730 or Catholic Charities of Central Texas, 1626 Rutherford Lane, Building D, Austin, TX 78754. 342-8732 or 836-1213, www.tidr.org or www.austindiocese.org/ccctx.

New Red Cross center — Volunteers are needed at a second service center, at 3811 E. 12th St., for evacuees who are not staying in the Austin Convention Center. Volunteers are needed for shifts from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or noon to 6 p.m. for five consecutive days. www.volunteersolutions.org/austin/volunteer.

Texas Federation of Humane Societies — Evacuees may contact the federation for help with their pets. 282-1277, www.txfederation.org.

Vessel recovery — A Web site has been established to help recreational and commercial boat owners file missing boat reports and allow those who find boats to file found boat reports; reports can be searched on the Web site. www.vesselrecovery.net.

Mississippi Development Authority — For Hurricane Katrina relief information, visit www.mississippi.org.

S.O.C.K.S. (Students Offering Compassion for Katrina Survivors) — San Marcos school district students at Travis Elementary School are filling tube socks with change for Katrina victims. After the money is donated, the socks will be given to the Southside Community Center in San Marcos, which is offering clothing to evacuees.

Project AROS (Austin Reaching Out to Survivors) — A Web site devoted to capturing



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and highlighting efforts planned by Austin's African American community to benefit survivors has been set up at www.projectaros.com. Project AROS is working with black churches to raise \$500,000.

Volunteers — The Capital Area Food Bank requests that those wishing to volunteer visit www.austinfoodbank.org for a list of available days and times and for contact information. Volunteers are helping collect, sort and box items for daily shipment.

Library relief — The Texas Library Association's Disaster Relief Fund is collecting money for libraries in the Gulf Coast area as well as for libraries that are providing support for the evacuees. Donations should be made payable to the Texas Library Association at 3355 Bee Cave Road, Suite 401, Austin, TX, 78746. Donors should designate the selected state. Donations can also be made online at www.tsla.org. The association is accepting books and reference materials to help affected libraries fill their shelves. To make a book donation, ship materials to Braker Self Storage, Attn: Katrina Book Drive, 2607 W. Braker Lane, Austin, TX, 78758. Materials also may be dropped off there.

Humane Society of the United States — For information on donating or volunteering to help pets in areas affected by the hurricane, visit www.hsus.org.

AFLAC — 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Toll-free hot line available to provide priority assistance to policy holders, sales agents and clients affected by Hurricane Katrina, (800) 849-2943.

Goodwill vouchers — Goodwill is distributing \$25 vouchers to hurricane victims. Most of the initial Austin clothing donations went straight to the Austin Convention Center, but the overflow has been sent to the 33 local Goodwill stores. Proceeds from the in-store sales will go to job programs.

Bus passes — Capital Metro is giving survivors free 30-day bus passes, in addition to bus schedules and directions to key locations from the Austin Convention Center.

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Has established a hot line to collect donations for hurricane victims and their families, (866) 820-6141.

Timberline 1 Managed Schools — Capitol City Careers, Capitol City Trade & Technical School, Allied Health Careers and Southwest Institute of Technology are assisting students who had training interrupted or want to enroll. Call 306-7995.

Austin Yellow Bike Project — Seeking bikes, children's seats with racks and bike trailers, and volunteers to help build bikes for evacuees; no mechanical skills needed. Drop off donations at Austin Yellow Bike Project, 2013 E. 51st St. 457-9880, www.austinyellowbike.org.

Walter J. Ernst Veterinarian Medical Foundation — Accepting donations to provide relief for animals in Louisiana; checks only. Mail to 8550 United Plaza, Suite 1001, Baton Rouge, LA, 70809.

Women's health services — Whole Woman's Health is offering free emergency gynecological health services and is donating feminine hygiene products. All referrals, calls for donations and requests for assistance should be made at 250-1005 or (877) 407-0100. People in San Marcos call 392-3481.

Central Texas Red Cross — Prepaid phone cards and gas cards are needed. Donations can be sent to 2218 Pershing Drive, Austin, TX, 78723.

Naval ROTC collection — University of Texas Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps will accept donations from UT students and faculty members and local businesses to give to the Red Cross. 471-7649, www.utexas.edu/rotc/navymarine.

Assistance to businesses — Corporations, limited partnerships and limited liability companies from affected areas can temporarily transact business in Texas without a certificate of authority. 475-0218, nhoang@sos.state.tx.us.

Textron employee check-in — Textron Systems is calling on Textron Marine & Land employees affected by Hurricane Katrina to contact the company about their location and status. A hot line is available from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day at (800) 313-3703. Employees also can e-mail the company at tmlstat@systems.textron.com.

Texas Workforce Commission — The agency has set up a hot line for disaster unemployment assistance at (800) 818-7811; call between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. weekdays. A hot line for employers wishing to hire displaced Louisiana workers is (800) 695-6879; call between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays. www.texasworkforce.org.

Pitney Bowles employees — Employees may call (877) 722-7474 to request assistance from the Pitney Bowles Relief Fund and report their status if they have not reached a human resources manager.

Louisiana Board of Regents — A hot line for students needing information on their

status, opportunities to enroll elsewhere, financial aid and more is available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, (866) 415-2269. Additional information, including a registry for displaced faculty, is available at www.regents.state.la.us.

Citizen Taxi — Matches people who can offer car rides or bikes with hurricane victims in need of transportation. www.citentaxi.com.

Operation School Bell — The Assistance League of Austin is providing new clothes for students displaced by the hurricane. To apply, contact the Austin school district's Project Help at 414-0760. To donate, call the league at 458-3716, www.alaustin.org.

American Red Cross Family Links Registry — Registry helping individuals seeking loved ones and family members can be accessed at www.redcross.org or (877) 568-3317.

Texas Health and Human Services — Louisiana evacuees may call (888) 312-4567. Those wanting to donate or volunteer are encouraged to call OneStar at (800) 707-6768, Red Cross at (800) HELP-NOW or the Salvation Army at (800) SAL-ARMY.

Rentalhouses.com — Anyone offering free housing to victims of Katrina can have their properties posted at no charge. www.rentalhouses.com, (866) 822-RENT.

Catholic Charities of Central Texas — A disaster response program office is open to assist victims. Donations and volunteers are welcome. St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 E. 10th St. 476-6182.

The Jewish Community Association of Austin — Free access to fitness facilities as well as housing assistance and counseling services are available. www.jcaaonline.org, 735-8078. Association is accepting new or gently used clothing and staples such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, diapers and nonperishable food items. Items can be dropped off at the JCAA campus, 7300 Hart Lane. Armstrong Moving will drive the donated items to shelters.

Leander High School — Donations of canned food, first-aid supplies, bottled water, baby supplies and new or gently used clothes, towels and sheets will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. throughout September. 3301 S. Bagdad Road. 435-8000, Ext. 81403.

Austin Harley-Davidson/Buell — Donations will be accepted throughout September. 10917 S. Interstate 35. www.austinharley-davidson.com, 448-4294.

Loyalton of Austin and the Park at Beckett Meadows — Assisted-living communities offer victims lower prices for short-term apartment accommodations. Loyalton, 418-8228; Beckett Meadows, 891-9544.

Meridian Med Spa — A free 30-minute massage will be provided for anyone who makes at least a \$30 donation to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. 371-7124.

ABKA — The trade association for boarding and professional pet care is willing to board pets for free and donate food and other pet products. www.abka.com, (877) 570-7788.

City of Austin — City is staffing hot line to assist evacuees and those wanting to assist evacuees. 974-1110. Resource guide for evacuees and volunteers at www.cityofaustin.org.

Texas Education Agency — Opened a hot line to answer education questions arising from Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, a Web site has been set up to collect hurricane-related information in one place. (800) 957-5109. www.tea.state.tx.us.

Texas Department of Insurance — A hot line and Web site have been set up for those who have questions about their insurance. (800) 252-3439. www.tdi.state.tx.us/commish/storms.

Arc of the Capital Area — Assistance for survivors with disabilities. East Austin Family Pantry, 472-2297, www.eastaustinfamilypantry.blogspot.com; LCRA, 473-4002, www.arcofthecapitalarea.org.

U.S. Postal Service — Displaced residents can be reconnected with their mail. (800) 275-8777, www.usps.com or visit the closest post office. A toll-free number has been set up for displaced postal employees: (877) 477-3273.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant and Children — Evacuees who had WIC benefits or those who want to begin receiving the benefits can contact the nearest WIC clinic or call (800) 942-3678.

Lawyers unite — The Austin Bar Association and the Austin Young Lawyers Association have formed a relief committee to coordinate its efforts. The committee will collect donations that will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$275,000 by Compass Bank; organize a clothing drive; provide office space for displaced lawyers; and provide lawyers for legal clinics to help victims in Houston.

Student displacement — The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has launched a Web site at www.katrinacollegestudents.org to serve as a clearinghouse for information from the board and Texas colleges and universities about accommodations for students displaced by the hurricane.

Clothing — Goodwill Industries of Central Texas is accepting clothing donations at all Goodwill locations.

San Marcos donation collection — The city has set up a special account for donations. Make checks payable to the City of San Marcos with notation 'Katrina Disaster Relief'; money will be given to the Red Cross. Credit card and cash donations also accepted. Drop off checks at or mail to San Marcos utility payment centers at 630 E. Hopkins St. or 1040 Seguin Highway, San Marcos, TX, 78666.

Habitat for Horses/Lone Star Equine Rescue — Seeking donations for rescue of horses, mules and donkeys in Louisiana. Monetary donations can be made online or mailed to Habitat for Horses/Lone Star Equine Rescue, P.O. Box 213, Hitchcock, TX, 77563. Hay, feed, bandages, antiseptic, trailers, temporary equine fencing, tarps, buckets, new lead ropes and halters can be dropped off at the Travis County Exposition Center, 9311 Decker Lane, from 5 to 9 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends. www.lser.org/disasterrelief.htm or www.habitatforhorses.org/getinvolved/donatenow.html.

St. Augustine Orthodox Church — 4 to 8 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday. A Salvation Army dropoff station will collect diapers, baby food, toiletries, nonperishable food, pet supplies, bottled water, blankets and more. For information or to make a dropoff appointment, call 797-2769 or 496-1750. 100 E. Wilbarger St., Pflugerville.

Driskill Hotel — Sales of \$10 collectible tins of cookies from the hotel's 1886 Café and Bakery will benefit the Le Pavillon Hotel Employee Assistance Fund. Bakery hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday; cookies will also be sold on the patio during select hours on weekdays. On Mondays, proceeds from drinks sold during happy hour from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Driskill Bar will benefit the Red Cross. 604 Brazos St.

Randalls — Donate a dollar or more at the register; 100 percent goes to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

Celebration Church collection — Nondenominational congregation in Round Rock has opened a centralized collection point for donations. A warehouse adjacent to Big Lots and near Academy Sports on North Interstate 35 will be open to accept donations of bottled water, clothing, pillows and blankets, diapers and baby formula, hygiene items (such as deodorant, toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, toilet paper), nonperishable food items and wheelchairs. www.celebrationchurchtx.com/katrinarelieft.html.

Austin Children's Museum — During September, the museum is offering free admission to victims of the hurricane. Also this month, donations made during the museum's Wednesday Community Nights will be given to the Central Texas Red Cross and the Southeastern Museums Conference Fund, established to help museums and children's museums affected by Hurricane Katrina. The museum also will stay open until 8 p.m. every Thursday in September for evacuees.

Best Friends Animal Society — A relief fund has been set up to help rescue pets stranded in areas stricken by Hurricane Katrina. www.bestfriends.org.

Texas Veterinary Medical Association Katrina Relief Fund — Group is collecting funds for displaced veterinarians, supporting animal care and rescue, and restoring veterinary services in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. 452-4224, www.tvma.org.

Williamson County 4-H County Council — Collecting donations of personal hygiene items as well as Target and Wal-Mart gift cards. 3151 SE Inner Loop Road, Suite A, Georgetown. 943-3300.

Texas Hillel — Collecting computer equipment to send to a food pantry in Baton Rouge, La. Also are looking for people to drive the equipment there. Contact Robin Weber at 476-0125.

Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas — Accepting blood donations. 4300 N. Lamar Blvd. or 2132 N. Mays St. in Round Rock. www.bloodandtissue.org.

Schreiner University — Offering tuition waivers to eligible students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Schreiner University, 2100 Memorial Blvd., Kerrville. (800) 343-4919, www.schreiner.edu.

Time Warner Cable — Collecting donations for the Capital Area Food Bank, including diapers, bottled water, canned meats, peanut butter and granola or cereal bars at its customer service offices at 12012 N. MoPac Blvd. (Loop 1) and 1905 N. Mays St., Round Rock. MoPac location hours: 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday. Round Rock office hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays.

Lutheran Social Services — Agency is collecting money for victims with Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the ELCA and the Southern District of the LCMS. 459-1000, www.lsss.org.

Donations

Community giving:

- Holy Family Catholic School collected more than \$5,000 for Mobile Loaves & Fishes Ministry of St. Thomas More Catholic Parish through a benefit concert.
- Travis County sheriff's officers: \$6,469 in donations from customers at 10 Chipotle restaurants. Some of the money was used to buy school supplies at Target stores, which also made donations.
- Listeners of radio station KLBJ (590 AM): \$165,502.95
- Cedar Park residents: \$25,763, plus thousands of dollars in donated goods and merchandise.
- Hunter Barron, Walker Jezek, Weston Jezek and Drew Heusner, seventh-graders at Hill Country Middle School: \$318 from a lemonade and cookie sale.
- Bowie High School Student Council and Red Cross Club: \$4,760.18

Agencies and nonprofits:

- Capital Area Food Bank of Central Texas, \$55,000 through golf tournament
- Capital Metro employees: \$51,000 to aid New Orleans bus employees and their families.
- Michael and Susan Dell Foundation: \$5 million to various agencies and funds.
- American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and American Diabetes Association: Joint \$1 million gift to the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund.
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission provided food to more than 26,000 Louisiana families.

Businesses:

- Scooter Store, 2,000 wheelchairs and 900 canes and walkers, valued at \$1 million
- Hertz Furniture System: Donating chairs and desks to authorized school districts.
- SBC Communications Inc.: Doubled the cap for its employee matching-gift fund to \$2 million — for a total potential company and employee contribution of up to \$4 million.
- Nokia: 25 phone chargers for evacuees at the Austin Convention Center.
- First Lockhart National Bank: \$5,000 from the bank and \$117,000 from contributions by Caldwell County residents.
- Taco Cabana: Will donate 50,000 meals valued at \$25,000 through its program Operation Feeding Hope to evacuees in Austin, San Antonio, Dallas and Houston.
- Temple Inland Inc.: \$250,000
- Applied Materials Inc.: \$750,000.
- Next to New: Two truckloads of clothes, toys, linens and money (\$20 given by one of the evacuees who was at the shop Sept. 3).
- Wells Fargo & Co.: \$500,000, plus matching contributions from employees up to \$250,000.
- Dell Inc.: \$1 million from the company and \$1 million from its employees for the American Red Cross.
- Tejas Inc., an investment firm and brokerage: \$200,000 to the American Red Cross.
- Texas Association of Realtors: \$150,000
- Shell Oil Co. and Motiva Enterprises LLC: \$2 million to the American Red Cross and matching employee donations up to another \$1 million.
- Austin Ventures: \$100,000 matching grant challenge for the Central Texas high-tech community to establish a donor-advised fund at the Entrepreneurs Foundation & Idea Network.
- Time Warner Cable is matching all employee contributions to the Red Cross, up to \$1

million. On Sept. 3, technicians began installing free digital phones with local and long distance, video services and high-speed Internet at the Austin Convention Center and other shelters as needed.

- CompUSA stores are offering free long-distance and Internet access to evacuees.
- United Airlines transported about 100 evacuees from New Orleans to Austin.
- Tokyo Electron America: \$150,000 donation to the Red Cross, plus will match up to \$100,000 of employee donations.

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