



September 9, 2005

***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Catholic Charities Responds with Hurricane Katrina Relief

Eau Claire, La Crosse, Stevens Point, Wausau. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse, Inc. joins its partner agencies across the Catholic Charities network in offering its support and sympathy to all of those affected by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

In order to offer practical assistance to persons in need because of the hurricane, Catholic Charities is collecting funds to assist evacuees in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida through Catholic Charities, USA.

Catholic Charities across the country have joined together to launch Operation Home Away from Home to provide temporary housing for evacuees from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Catholic Charities USA announced today.

Catholic Charities has begun a formalized process to connect the Catholic Charities agencies in the Gulf Coast that are assisting evacuees in need of temporary accommodations with available housing across the country. In this effort, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of La Crosse will identify and screen available housing, assist in placing families in appropriate housing, and provide services to the evacuees as needed.

Catholic Charities will work in partnership with the Red Cross and the Salvation Army in meeting the immediate material and psychological needs of evacuees who relocate to our Diocese. In that regard, CCDL will utilize its emergency services and resettlement staff in its Eau Claire, La Crosse, Stevens Point and Wausau locations to provide case management and emergency assistance.

Each evacuee family relocated to our areas will be immediately provided \$50 gift cards for food, clothing and gas. Our resettlement staff will meet with each evacuee family to determine their basic needs and assess whether any further assistance or linkages to school, public health, W-2, Income Maintenance, public housing or other community resources are necessary. Mental Health professionals in each office will be available to meet with evacuees to allow them a chance to de-brief from their experiences of trauma and to provide solace for their grief. Other services will be provided as necessary.

For more information contact Dan Idzikowski @ 1-888-212-HELP (4357).