

Hurricane Relief Efforts – Update 9/21/05

Many thanks to all our JLM volunteers who donated their time to volunteer at the Red Cross and with the Ready to Read program. The Red Cross has completed its initial registration of evacuees and is no longer in need of volunteers at its registration centers.

The JLM continues to seek opportunities to serve those who have relocated to the Memphis area after the hurricane. This will be an ongoing need in our community for months to come, and we will continue to provide our members with information of how they can help with the relief effort.

- Our Adopt-A-School, Macon Elementary, informed us of a family from New Orleans in great need of help. **The Wilbon family** (Mom Lytanya, daughter Rhynea – 9, son Trey -10, and grandparents Sylvia and Willie) lost two homes, a car and all their personal belongings in the storm. They will be moving into an apartment within the next week and have no furnishings or household items, and little clothing.

The JLM has “adopted” the Wilbon family and will be collecting donations of the following:

- Furniture: sofa, chairs, tables, lamps, kitchen table & chairs, beds or frames, mattresses, dressers
- Appliances: refrigerator, microwave, washer/dryer, vacuum, computer, TV
- Household items: dishes, glassware, flatware, cookware, iron/ironing board

Please contact JLM volunteer Charlene Cox if you have furniture or other household items to donate. E-mail: ccox73174@excite.com, hm phone 324-0699, wk phone 434-7930.

We will also accept gift cards to major retailers such as Sears, Walmart, Target for purchase of clothing, sheets, towels, pillows and other household items. Gift cards may be brought to the September membership meeting or to the CRC.

Grandfather Willie, retired teacher 69 years old, and mom Lytanya, 28 year old teacher working on master’s degree, are also seeking part-time employment.

- **"Bear Hugs With Love"** Junior League member Natasha Nassar is helping coordinate a major teddy bear/stuffed animal drive in Memphis, Austin and Houston, TX. The youngest victims of Hurricane Katrina had to leave most precious possessions at home and this effort seeks to give each child a little something for comfort in this devastating time of loss in their lives. The bears collected in Memphis will go first to children in Memphis, then to those children who have evacuated to Houston, Austin and Dallas. Donated animals don't have to be bears, but must be NEW. More information can be found at www.bearhugswithlove.com . A collection box has been placed at the CRC.

- Donations to the **AJLI Disaster Fund** continue to be accepted. This fund was established by AJLI as a way to assist our sister leagues affected by Hurricane Katrina as they begin to rebuild their communities, and will ensure that a process is in place to react quickly to future emergencies should they arise. To contribute, please send check made to JLM to the attention of the President, Courtney Murrah at 3475 Central Avenue, Memphis TN 38111. More information about the AJLI Disaster Fund can be found at www.ajli.org (password: volunteer)

* Please continue to check the website for updated information on hurricane relief efforts.