

Action Pact, Inc.

September 9, 2005

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"We decided we should stay long enough to give them a break!"
said Dorene Spies



Update: Hurricane Relief Response by Culture Change Community Overwhelming

Action Pact's call for help for nursing homes affected by Hurricane Katrina is beginning to be answered. Individuals and facilities around the country have volunteered whatever possible to assist the homes that have been inundated with displaced elders. Donations have come in a variety of forms including money, clothes, bingo prizes, beds and volunteering time.

homes has left staff short-handed and over-worked. Seventeen volunteers have stepped forward and are scheduled to help out – nurses, social workers, medical records people, caregivers and maintenance people – all will be doing everything possible to relieve the Louisiana staff.

Special Thanks to:

- Pioneer Network & Pioneerexchange.org
- Meadowlark Hills of Manhattan, KS
- Mt. Carmel Home of Kearney, NE
- Jewish Home and Hospital Lifecare System of New York City, NY
- Windsor Place of Coffeyville, KS
- Fairlawn Nursing Home of Lexington, MA
- Karen Stobbe and Milwaukee Area Nursing Homes
- Jack York
- All the volunteers and donors!

Volunteers from several homes have been able to travel to Louisiana to do everything they can to help. As word spread about Action Pact's relief effort, we learned of more facilities in the area needing assistance. There are currently 6 nursing homes that have each taken in anywhere from 40 to 110 people stranded by this natural disaster. These homes are trying to find space for everyone and are desperately in need of beds and mattresses.

Willie Novotny, Administrator of Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community, in Manhattan, KS is currently helping coordinate the relief efforts on the scene. "The need for pressure mattresses is going to be an issue very soon. Also, at this time, we have a need for about 40 bed frames," Willie reports. Meadowlark arrived shortly after Sister Imelda Mauer of San Francisco, the first on the scene from our relief effort. They brought along 6 staff members - ready to do whatever was needed. The medical records folks from Meadowlark are also there, helping open new records and complete paper work. Read Shari Brown's daily update at <http://www.pioneerexchange.org>

Employees from Mt. Carmel Home of Kearney, NE, first thought about sending donations. But as they discussed the situation, they worried that the staff in Louisiana homes must be exhausted with all the extra people to care for suddenly. The Mt. Carmel staff decided they wanted to do something beyond sending supplies. Employees are delivering the donations in person and staying to assist their Louisiana peers in their work. "We decided we should stay long enough to give them a break!" said Dorene Spies. The residents of Mt. Carmel are helping to pack supplies and making suggestions about what to take. Staff that could not travel have offered to pick up extra shifts to fill the spaces left by the volunteers.

Similar scenarios are occurring at St. John's on the Lake of Milwaukee, WI, and Jewish Home & Hospital Lifecare System of New York City as they ready staff and/or supplies to head south. At Mercy Retirement & Care Center of Oakland, CA, beds have been purchased and shipped, and 3 volunteers are prepared to leave next weekend, about the time that Mt. Carmel folks head back to Nebraska. The people being evacuated to these nursing homes came with no money or possessions. The elders of Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community sent

In addition to the need for supplies, the influx of residents moving into the

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Katrina Relief Response, *cont'd*

thousands of dollars in cash with their Administrator, Willie Novotny. Recognizing the need for pocket money to buy personal items, they asked that he place money directly into the resident's personal accounts so that they could have their hair done, buy cigarettes or candy, or other personal items. Other purchases will be made to provide supplies that are needed but

are not yet in the 4 trucks making their way south.

Despite the incredible generosity of those who have already given, there is still a need for donations to overburdened nursing homes. Meadowlark Hills has set up a fund to help these homes with their financial needs. Monies from this account will be dispensed onsite

by volunteers from culture change facilities.

If you would like to donate money, please make checks out to Katrina Relief Fund and mail them to Meadowlark Foundation, 2121 Meadowlark Rd., Manhattan, KS 66502.

If you can provide pressure mattresses or bed frames, contact office@actionpact.com.

Diary from Louisiana

Posted on PioneerExchange.org on Thu Sep 8th, 2005 at 07:26:17 PM EST
Hello again,

Just wanted to share an update of information from the temporary and permanent staff of Haven Health. I am again amazed at the outpouring of generosity from people. We just finished unloading some of the supplies sent from Kansa when the folks from Haven encouraged us to take the remaining supplies on to Alexandria where others could benefit from them. We still have people in Alexandria sleeping on mattresses on the gym floor so if you have resources you would like to donate, this is the time to proceed. Alexandria really needs 13 more beds.

I asked for a clear list of needed items and this is what I heard. Any facility who has taken in elders would benefit from large or extra large disposable briefs. Briefs may be purchased from Gulf South, please inquire about the group purchasing discount, if applicable. Homes are also asking for over the bed tables, logistically finding places for these elders to enjoy a meal is difficult at best and the over the bed tables are a great comfort to them. Any of the homes would also appreciate pillows and cases, and chux or bed pads.

During one of many discussions with KaraLe Causey, CFO

of Haven, she was sharing about a fellow administrator who requested some egg crate mattresses. KaraLe said to her wouldn't you rather have some pressure relieving mattresses and this administrator replied that she wouldn't think of making such a costly request. Very humbling.

KaraLe also expressed how grateful she was that one facility was thoughtful enough to set up petty cash accounts for each of the elders so they could get the little things they desired such as a trip to the beauty shop. Our perspective of daily pleasures has changed over the last few days. I have several friends from New Orleans who are very convincing that Chicory is far better than anything Starbucks offers.

One last request is for a volunteer trustee or a non-profit entity to manage funds and donations.

Thanks again for reading, donating, passing the word, and contributing in whatever manner you do. You all are the best.
Warmest Regards,
Shari Brown

Posted on Fri Sep 9th, 2005 at 08:07:17 PM EST
Hello friends,

It was with a tender heart today that we bid goodbye to our new friends at The Haven. I knew I had earned a place in their heart when

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they told me today, Shari is a nice name, but can we call you our Kansas girl? We have played games, learned names, sang songs and talked of floods and death and happier times. I have had Louisiana history lessons, and life lessons of all sorts, but nothing equals to what I have learned about human nature.

Given the opportunity, people will grow from any experience. My friend Gloria, from New Orleans, said today, "you know honey, it's the little things that make life good."

What little thing was Gloria talking about? A clock for her room, a word search book, and a bag of chocolate. Of course, I got to thinking, what makes my life good? Wonderful family, great friends, Starbucks coffee (?) and the chance to help my fellow man. Thanks for this opportunity, and many thanks to those friends at Meadowlark who covered my responsibilities so I could help out here.

Farewell friends,
Shari

