



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FACT SHEET



Knights of Columbus Hurricane Relief

The Knights of Columbus conducted an unprecedented relief effort in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The effort included both immediate and spontaneous responses from local councils in the Gulf region and a national effort by the Supreme Council headquarters in New Haven, Connecticut to raise needed funds and coordinate the efforts of state councils throughout the U.S. and Canada. Among the highlights of the Order's Gulf States relief efforts:

- A total of more than **\$10 million** was donated to Gulf States relief efforts.
- More than **\$5.4 million** of the total was donated by nearly **55,000 individuals and organizations**. The Supreme Council **matched the donations** dollar-for-dollar throughout September and October 2005.
- Nearly **\$2 million in direct aid** was provided to individuals and charitable organizations in the affected areas, including both monetary grants and gift cards redeemable for clothing, food and medicine, as well as home repair expenses.
- More than **\$750,000** was donated to meet specific **educational needs**, including tuition scholarships for the displaced and school reconstruction. In addition, portions of the funds from general grants to the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the Diocese of Biloxi and other dioceses are being used to rebuild the Catholic school infrastructure.
- **100%** of the money donated to the Gulf States Hurricane Relief Fund was dedicated to relief in the affected areas. The Supreme Council paid all administrative costs.
- Typical of the responses of local councils in the region was that of “*KC Kajuns for Katrina*,” which served 7,800 meals and distributed 17,000 pounds of ice and truckloads of supplies during the two weeks following Katrina’s rampage.
- **Local council halls** throughout the region were used to provide meals for evacuees, and some were made available to emergency personnel for use as temporary command posts.
- Individual Knights donated **hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours** to hurricane relief efforts.
- The K of C headquarters staff and state councils worked together to match the skills and availability of thousands of Knights who volunteered to help with areas where the need was greatest.

The Gulf States relief efforts led the Knights to a record year of charitable giving, with more than 64 million hours and \$139 million dollars donated overall.

