

Dear Colleague in the Health Care Community:

We strive to be one nation, indivisible. Challenges like Katrina show just how close we come to that great ideal. It is now time for the health care field to aspire to the same ideal, and we need your help.

The response to Katrina by the women and men of America's hospitals is something our entire field can be extremely proud of. Hospital staffs in the hard-hit areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama gave the nation a shining example of what the special bond among hospitals, patients and communities is all about. Their bravery, ingenuity and strength saved countless lives. They carried patients to safety through dark stairwells in stifling heat; they performed surgery by flashlight; they operated ventilators by hand as power supplies dwindled. Even as their own homes were being destroyed and their lives and those of their families were being changed forever, these brave people did, in fact, whatever was needed to help their patients.

Now it is our turn to help them. Thousands lost their homes and were evacuated with only the clothes on their backs. They will need help finding housing, bringing their families together and restarting their lives. Some won't have jobs until their hospitals are again at full capacity.

The hospital associations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama have created a special fund to aid their colleagues: The Care Fund. One hundred percent of your tax-deductible donation will go to the hospital workers, because the associations are picking up all administrative costs.

There is some urgency because there is a great need, and the first round of distributions are therefore to be made early in October, which makes it important to have your initial donation by September 30. Enclosed is a very brief donation form. Detailed information about The Care Fund is available at www.thecarefund.net.

Thanks for supporting the women and men who courageously preserved our shared mission of caring.

Sincerely,



Hospital employees in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama suffered devastating losses from Hurricane Katrina – some lost everything, yet they continued caring for their patients and neighbors who were ill or suffered injury as a result of the storm.

In an effort to help these heroic health care workers rebuild their lives, the hospital community has established The Care Fund, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations made to this fund, which will be administered by state hospital associations in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, will be distributed to eligible hospital staff in the affected states.

Now is our turn to help the women and men who courageously preserved our shared mission of caring and curing. The need is great, and we need the help of the entire health care field.

Send this form and your check to: **The Care Fund
P.O. Box 11407
Birmingham, AL 35246-1288**

Please provide the following donor information:

Organization _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

Donation Amount \$ _____ *Please make your check payable to The Care Fund*

Federal Tax Identification Number for The Alabama Health Research and Education Foundation d/b/a The Care Fund: 63-6049673

Thank you.



-serving those who serve us all