

REQUEST TO JOURNALISTS:

We ask that you urge family or friends in touch with evacuees to let those in need of housing know that a volunteer housing service exists and that shelter IS available. Family and friends of evacuees should be encouraged to use the website or the 800# to help link evacuees with available housing.

****SUNDAY MEDIA UPDATE FOR
WWW.HURRICANEHOUSING.ORG****

MOVEON.ORG CIVIC ACTION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005**

**NEW TOLL-FREE NUMBER, 1- 800-638-4559,
CONNECTS HURRICANE EVACUEES
TO PEOPLE OFFERING HOUSING**

**30,000 Beds Now Available in the Southeast Through
MoveOn's
WWW.HURRICANEHOUSING.ORG**; 100,000 Beds
Available Nationally**

*Tim Robbins, John Cusack, Rosie Perez and Moby have produced PSAs & posted
website notices
to increase housing availability; more artists expected to join the effort*

A new toll-free number, 1- 800-638-4559, has been created to directly connect evacuees with housing donors. Operators taking calls will stay on the line to guide evacuees through the www.hurricanehousing.org matching process.

The 800 number will be open from 6 AM to 9 PM Central time and is currently being funded by California philanthropists Andy and Deborah Rappaport. The Rappaports have agreed to pay the costs of the hotline until donations are made available.

ARTISTS USE PSAs URGING PUBLIC TO OFFER HOUSING:

Tim Robbins, Green Day, John Cusack, Rosie Perez, REM, Pearl Jam, Moby, the Beastie Boys, and the Roots are among a growing number of actors and recording artists who have joined the effort launched Thursday by MoveOn.org Civic Action, to find housing for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

“It is crucial that the victims of Katrina get safe housing...and that's why www.hurricanehousing.org is available...to help those in need. As a band, we felt that promoting the service is essential - literally a matter of life and death," said Michael Stipe of REM.

Robbins produced a PSA from South Africa where he is currently shooting a film. Cusack produced his PSA while on location in Bulgaria. Moby sent in his video from Mexico. All of the recording artists are promoting the housing effort with links on their websites to the new MoveOn site. **See PSA script below.*

WWW.HURRICANEHOUSING.ORG LAUNCH PROGRESS:

On Thursday, MoveOn.org Civic Action, formerly known as MoveOn.org, created a new web site, www.hurricanehousing.org, asking its 3.3 million members and the public to post any available housing for the thousands of people left homeless by Hurricane Katrina.

In just four days, people across the country opened their homes and offered more than 100,000 beds, 30,000 of them in the southeastern U.S. where housing is most urgently needed.

The emergency drive was created to connect housing volunteers with hurricane victims in need of housing. The public can post free housing offers (a spare room, extra bed, even a decent couch), then evacuees and aid workers can search for available housing online at: www.hurricanehousing.org or call the hotline. MoveOn is working to provide the housing information to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other relief groups. **Details on the website process are below.*

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Sign-up Process for WWW.HURRICANEHOUSING.ORG:

* You can sign up to become a host by posting a description of whatever housing you have available. You can change or remove your offer at any time.

* Hurricane victims, local and national relief organizations, friends and relatives can search the site for housing. MoveOn will do everything they can to get housing offers where they are needed most, even distributing them to social workers helping families in shelters.

* Hurricane victims or relief agencies can submit requests to people who post housing offers. They decide if it's a good match and then reply to make the necessary arrangements. The host's contact information is hidden from view until they decide to respond to a particular request.

PSA SCRIPT:

Script 1

This is _____.

Right now, over 100,000 people in Louisiana and Mississippi have been left homeless by Hurricane Katrina.

If you live within 300 miles of the disaster areas and have a free room, you can help today by providing housing for victims who have been left homeless

Please log onto www.hurricanehousing.org <<http://www.hurricanehousing.org/>> and let them know you have an extra room. And if you're one of the families left homeless and can get on the Internet, please log on to www.hurricanehousing.org.

Those with homes can help those without. Hurricanehousing.org.

A public service message from MoveOn.org Civic Action.