

MOVEON.ORG CIVIC ACTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2005

10,000 Beds Now Available in the Southeast for Katrina Victims Through MoveOn's WWW.HURRICANEHOUSING.ORG

*Refugees, Relief Agencies Encouraged to Search for Free Housing at
WWW.HURRICANEHOUSING.ORG*

RED CROSS DONATIONS STILL URGED

MoveOn.org Civic Action, formerly known as MoveOn.org, launched a new web site yesterday, <http://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.

The organization will directly connect evacuees with volunteer hosts, and also provide the housing information to the Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

In just 24 hours people across the country opened their homes and offered more than 33,000 beds to Katrina evacuees.

The emergency drive connects empty beds 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 <<http://www.hurricanehousing.org>>.

Tens of thousands of newly homeless families are being bused to the Houston Astrodome, where they may wait for weeks or months. At least 80,000 are competing for area shelters and countless more are in motels, cars, or wherever they can find shelter. FEMA and the Red Cross are working hard to provide shelter for the displaced.

Housing is most urgently needed within reasonable driving distance (about 300 miles) of the affected areas in the Southeast, especially New Orleans.

The process is simple:

* 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.

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