

Red Cross needs volunteers

Editor's Note: This is part of an email sent to the student body by Dee Dasburg. Melissa Paschuck, Assistant Dean of Campus Life went to a Red Cross meeting Sept. 2 and had these comments.

The main purpose of the meeting at the Red Cross this evening (September 2) was to make sure that efforts of area churches and the College are coordinated and not being duplicated. If a refugee contacts any agency in Brevard or Transylvania County at large (police, community services, etc.), the agency is referring the person directly to the Red Cross as the first contact for assistance.

The Red Cross would like us to do the same by contacting them before beginning any individual relief effort as they are the hub for resources and services. (The Red Cross was sure to mention there are other agencies that are also providing assistance and encouraged us to send our money, time, etc. to them if so desired).

If a person or family in need contacts them, the Red Cross is able to help them find a place to live, give them cots and blankets, comfort kits, and money to purchase clothing and food. The state of North Carolina has agreed to continue welfare and Medicaid services for refugees from the disaster areas, as well as integrate

school age children into local schools.

The Red Cross needs help now, but the need for help with this disaster will continue for a long time ... think a year or two or more.

The Red Cross expressed the following needs:

- Volunteers to participate in training and to be deployed to the disaster areas to assist now AND later (see more information below);
- Monetary Donations;
- Places of any kind for individuals and families to live including summer homes, rooms in a house, apartments, etc (Contact the Red Cross to give them information on the space you have available and they will match it to the needs of the victims and then help the victims contact you.);
- Peer Counselors to help victim deal with the effects of the disaster;
- Local volunteers to assist refugees in navigating the area, finding services, obtaining jobs, etc.; and
- Day care for refugees with children so that parents can work.

Note: There are already 12+ families in the Brevard area that are in the process of being placed into living space.

The Red Cross will accept donations of the following:

- Water;
- Non-perishable food items (Manna Food Bank in Asheville is also accepting donations); and
- Comfort Kits and help assembling the kits (tooth brush, tooth paste, washcloths, soap, comb, shaving cream, disposable razors, feminine products, coloring books, and crayons).

The Red Cross prefers that you donate the items in the comfort kits in bulk or in large, organized groups of tooth brushes, tubes of tooth paste, bars of soap, etc. They have bags labeled "Red Cross" that they distribute the kits in.

You can drop off your donations at the Red Cross in College Plaza. They will have volunteers in the parking lot and have a trailer to put the items in. You may also go to the office to drop off donations.

The Red Cross will not accept donations of the following:

- Clothing (The Red Cross prefers to give victims money to purchase new clothing that fits them and will also refer them to places such as The Sharing House for clothing needs beyond their clothing allowance);
- "In Kind" Donations (These are small donations of individual items. The



September 1, 2005. Weary evacuees from New Orleans rest in the Houston Astrodome. Photographer: Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

Gas lines



Photos by John B. Padgett

Drivers in Brevard felt the crunch from Hurricane Katrina last week when a pipeline supplying fuel from the Gulf Coast to Georgia and the Carolinas was damaged by the storm. Drivers lined up to fill their tanks at local gas stations on Wednesday, two days after the storm slammed Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, causing temporary shortages at many area stations. According to press reports, service along the pipeline had been largely restored by Friday, but some stations continued to suffer from shortages even a week after the storm.