



WANT TO HELP?

Local and area agencies that are collecting money, food and other items for victims of Hurricane Katrina:

■ Kings Mountain police and fire fighters will be at major intersections collecting money for Red Cross relief efforts on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ The City of Kings Mountain has joined a county-wide effort to help Laurel, Mississippi. Supplies can be dropped off at both fire stations.

■ The Kings Mountain YMCA and Fidelity Bank are collection sites for Red Cross donations. The YMCA is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

The following items are needed by both city and Red Cross efforts: canned foods with pull tops or manual can openers, sugared powered drink mixes, commercially bottled water, Gatorade, Ensure, diapers, unscented baby wipes, paper products, plastic utensils, combs, brushes, soap, tooth paste, toothbrushes, insect repellent, sunscreen, liquid antiseptic hand wash, hand wipes, flashlights, batteries, tarps, chain saws, generators, duct tape, bleach, detergent, toys and pet food.

Nothing in glass should be donated; no clothing, perishable, carbonated, unmarked or damaged items.

■ Earthen Vessels ministry is collecting goods at Family Worship Center Church of God. The following items are especially needed: paper products, non-perishable food, underwear and socks.

For more information, call 704-739-4520 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays.

■ The YMCA is taking a group of Gardner-Webb University students to clean up storm damage and work in shelters Oct. 21 to 25. Others who are interested in going should call 704-739-9631.

■ Samaritans Purse is partnering with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to collect relief supplies including baby food, formula, linens, bedding, hygiene items, underwear and socks.

Contributions can be dropped off at the Operation Christmas Child warehouse Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the end of September. The warehouse is located on Township Road off South Tryon in Charlotte.

■ Financial donations to the Red Cross may be made by visiting redcross.org or by mailing contributions to P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013. To direct the donation to relief from Hurricane Katrina, note this in the check's memo.

■ North Carolina Baptist men have been assigned to Meridian, Leakesville and Gulfport by the Southern Baptist disaster relief coordinating body.

Contributions may be made to the NC Baptist Men, designated for Hurricane Katrina, and mailed to NC Baptist Men, Baptist State Convention, PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512. Online donations are accepted at www.northcarolinabaptists.org.

Individuals interested in helping should call 800-395-5102 ext. 341 or 919-467-5100 ext. 341 or e-mail kmorgan@bscnc.org. More information and volunteer registration is available at www.ncmissions.org.

■ Food boxes are being collected at the Baptist Men's Warehouse, 6499 North Highland Blvd., Grifton, NC; Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC; Piedmont Baptist Association, 2009 Sharpe Road Greensboro, NC; Sun Drop Bottling Company, 360 Old Salisbury-Concord Road, Concord; and Mud Creek Baptist Church, 403 Rutledge Drive, Hendersonville, on Sept. 14 and Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The following directions should be followed: use a small moving box 16 x 12 5/8 x 12 5/8 (1.5 cubic feet). The box should have a weight rating of approximately 65+ pounds. These are available from most packaging stores and moving companies. Line the box with a kitchen trash can liner. Pack the items by quantity listed below. Tape the box with durable packing tape.

Pack with the following items: sugar, one 5-pound bag (1 bag); cooking oil, 48oz. plastic bottle (1 bottle); canned tuna (or canned chicken), 6-oz. cans (3 cans);

See Help, 2A

Kings Mountain area comes to aid of Hurricane Katrina victims

City, county join together to help Mississippi town

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
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Television and newspaper images of the hurricane ravaged Gulf Coast have moved Kings Mountain residents to donate money and goods and in a few cases visit the area.

Cleveland County Commission Chairman Ronnie Hawkins flew Shelby's mayor to Laurel, Mississippi on Saturday. Kings Mountain has joined with the county-wide effort to help the city of 20,000. Goods will be collected at both city fire stations.

"What a great opportunity to help people in need," Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey said.

Hawkins describes the damage done to Laurel as similar to that from Hurricane Hugo.

"It's not good," he said. "It's a community that needs our help."

Trees have fallen on homes and electricity is out but there has been no flooding or deaths reported, Hawkins said. Some looting has occurred. The city's business district has sustained damage.

Hawkins saw block-long lines of people waiting to get gas in small containers. He said this fuel was used for chain saws in the clean up effort. Vehicles were lined up for a mile to fill up.

Located just 90 miles from New Orleans, the town is taking in around 1,000 storm refugees despite its own problems. Churches and the city's civic center are housing them.

The Cleveland County representatives met with the town's mayor and were taken on a tour by local police. Disaster volunteers and emergency personnel there are tired and need relief so they can check on their own homes. Some Cleveland County area emergency workers may be sent to Laurel to give them a break, Hawkins said.

Dawn Parker, a mother of three, was so upset by the sick and injured children of the Gulf Coast, that she worked to set up a collection site for supplies.

"I wouldn't want mine to go through that without help," she said.

Patrick Mills loaned her a trailer and Harris Teeter allowed it to sit in her parking lot. Parker was there all day Saturday, Sunday, and Monday and took a vacation day to be there again on Tuesday. Friend Diane Whetstine helped her over the long weekend.

By Tuesday morning the trailer was half full. Teams from local churches accepted donations at the Harris-Teeter entrances, collecting \$1,374. Victory Baptist in Grover brought its \$1,300 collection to the grocery store where they bought supplies to donate.

"There's a lot of people with big hearts," Parker said.

The donation which touched Parker the most was a Bible. Young Kasey Church handed it to Parker, explaining that he and his mother didn't have any money to give. He had written inside "From our family to yours. God bless you."

"Of course I cried," Parker said.

The local, interdenominational ministry Earthen Vessels plans to take what Parker has collected on its next run to the Gulf Coast.

Partnering with Operation Compassion, the ministry has already sent five trailers to the Gulf Coast. The supplies were collected from a site at Family Worship Center.

Pastor Roger Woodard of Family Worship Center left for the devastated area Sunday evening. He toured areas around Birmingham, Ala. and Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi, shooting footage and interviewing survivors for the church's Voice of Triumph television show.

The show airs at 5 p.m. Monday in Kings Mountain and Shelby on Time Warner lease access channel 9. There are other regional broadcasts in addition to audiences in 81 countries.

Woodard saw both mansions and homes in poorer communities destroyed.

"It looks like a bomb has gone off," Woodard said.

Kings Mountain firefighters collected \$900 for the Red Cross at Friday night's ball game. They'll be joined by police on Saturday to collect at major intersections.



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Dawn Parker packs goods for the hurricane ravaged Gulf Coast. Parker organized a supply drive over the weekend.

Young girl to hold yard sale for hurricane victims

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
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After Maranda Brooks saw television footage of storm damage in Biloxi, Mississippi where she vacationed with her family in June, the Kings Mountain Intermediate School sixth-grader wanted to help.

She asked her mother Michele Putnam if they could give the profits from an upcoming yard sale to the Red Cross.

A few remaining landmarks like an IHOP sign in a news clip were enough for the family to identify the parking lot of the motel they had stayed at three months ago. It was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The yard sale starts Saturday at 7 a.m. at the U-Haul building at the corner of Stony Point and Oak Grove roads. Items for sale include baby toys, CDs, children's books, toys, computer games, infants' clothing size newborn through 12 months, girl's sizes five through eight, women's clothes sizes seven and nine and shoes.

"She hopes to sell out," Putnam said.



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Michele Putnam and her daughter Maranda Brooks are planning a yard sale Saturday to benefit Red Cross disaster relief efforts.

High gas prices affecting individuals, government

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
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Higher gas prices are affecting individuals and government agencies.

Kings Mountain City Manager Greg McGinnis has asked all departments to take "extraordinary measures" to conserve gas. Across the city, all non-essential travel has been curtailed and vehicles are not to be idled.

When Kings Mountain Police got word of quickly rising prices Wednesday morning, conservation measures went in place cutting the department's fuel use in half

by the following day.

Officers are riding two to a car and doing more stationary monitoring. Police are taking reports over the phone of some smaller crimes when there are no suspects.

"Response times are going to be longer unless it's an emergency," Chief Melvin Proctor said.

Two years ago the city put in place fuel conserving measures when gas prices started to climb. At that time most officers stopped driving work vehicles home. Now no employees do unless they are on call, Proctor said.

Electric Director Nick Hendricks said that his department will continue to respond to public safety and emergency calls but maintenance will be delayed until fuel prices go back down.

The fire department has cut its vehicle floor testing - a preventive maintenance test - from daily to weekly.

Public works is mowing grass, doing street repairs and cleaning sewer lines less often. Pump stations are checked twice weekly instead of three times each week, McGinnis said.

See Gas, 2A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Bryan Alderman of Kings Mountain puts three gallons of gas in his 1998 Ford Ranger Tuesday.