



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BAPS Care International Launches Immediate Relief Efforts For Hurricane Katrina Victims**

Houston, Sept. 2 -- In the wake of the hurricane devastation to hit the Gulf Coast region of the United States, BAPS Care International has launched immediate relief efforts in parts of the stricken zone. BAPS Care centers in the south have been mobilized in various states and cities to help the victims of hurricane Katrina.

Initial relief efforts in Jackson MS were launched as soon as evacuees started fleeing before the full fury of the hurricane struck. Now with thousands of people left homeless and destitute, relief efforts have been expanded to the BAPS Care centers along the Gulf Coast, Biloxi and Harrisburg MS, and Houston TX. Volunteers at all these centers are providing hot food and shelter to refugees now fleeing the stricken zones. Additional food and shelter arrangements have also been made with various local motels.

“With electricity and gas supplies switched off as a precautionary measure, we’ve had to ship in propane gas cookers and other essential items to ensure that we can continue to provide hot food to the victims”, explained Jayesh Shelat, a BAPS Care volunteer in Houston.

With whole communities wiped out and a rising death toll, in what is described as possibly the worst natural disaster to strike the United States; BAPS Care volunteers will continue to sustain their current relief efforts in the region by ensuring supply of food and shelter to the victims. In addition BAPS Care has also extended to offer any help with relief assistance that may be requested by the Mayors office in Houston. The same has been extended to the Red Cross to help with those who are being cared for at the Houston Astrodome.

“Based on our most recent relief efforts during the massive tsunami that hit South East Asia, we anticipated that in the aftermath of such a tragedy, shelter, food supply and distribution would be an extremely important priority”, explained BAPS Care President Nilkanth Patel. “Moving forward we have designated our major center in Houston as the command and control center to efficiently co-ordinate , manage and assess our relief activities on the ground. We also plan to launch a nationwide appeal for funds through our 45 centers in North America.”

### **HOW TO HELP**

**Online:** <http://www.bapscare.org>

**Phone:** (888) CARE-881 or 732-777-1818

**Mail:** make your checks payable to “**BAPS Care International**” and mail to:

BAPS Care International – Katrina Relief Fund

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