



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BAPS Care International Relief Efforts for Hurricane Katrina Victims

One of the most dramatic illustrations of nature's force came to light once again as the Category 4 Hurricane Katrina devastated the Southern United States. With whole communities wiped out and a rising death toll, Katrina is now described as possibly the worst natural disaster to strike the United States. BAPS Care International, a 501(c) (3)-registered nonprofit international public charity, launched its relief efforts on 29th August and continues to expand the breadth and depth of its relief operations in the stricken zones along the Gulf Coast.

From relief centers in Houston and Dallas TX, Atlanta, GA, Jackson, Biloxi and Hattiesburg, MS, BAPS Care International has dispatched volunteer teams to provide aid in the Mississippi towns of Gulfport, Waveland and Bay Saint Louise. Volunteers have also been sent to the Louisiana towns of Kenner and Baton Rouge. At the George R. Brown convention center, The Houston Food Bank and other relief centers in Houston and Sugar Land, BAPS Care volunteers are actively providing relief assistance and medical services. In addition to providing hot food and shelter to the victims of the disaster, BAPS Care International is also addressing the lack of basic everyday necessities by distributing emergency supplies of toiletries, medicines, cooking utensils, disposable kitchenware items (plates, knives and spatulas), and over 15 grocery items including milk, biscuits, sugar, salt and cooking oil. With depression and despair rampant, the requirements extend beyond material needs. BAPS Care volunteers along with BAPS Saints are also comforting families and individuals. With the huge numbers of people that have been displaced, shortage of adequate shelter continues to be a serious problem. To meet some of this demand, BAPS Care International has arranged to provide the Red Cross with over 140 rooms at various motels. Many students have been forced to relocate to different cities and to ease their financial burden BAPS Care International has provided free accommodations in hotels and apartments.

In the town of Kenner LA, which is still much very much underwater, impressed by the relief efforts of BAPS Care International, the Mayor of Kenner issued a special permit so volunteers could start providing immediate relief. "Kenner still needs assistance with food and water" explained BAPS Care volunteer, Ashok Patel, "to ensure this is maintained, and we can continue to help the victims in Kenner, we have set up a relief kitchen to provide a variety of cooked meals like macaroni cheese, spaghetti, rice, curries, and pasta for up to a thousand people, in addition to distributing basic household items, bottled drinking water and food packets."

For many, aid has been painfully slow in coming, "You are the first organization to come and help us", said Muneer Ahmed, whose motel in Bay Saint Louise, MS suffered considerable damage from the hurricane. Now with his livelihood severely disrupted, BAPS Care International has pledged to provide him with essential relief supplies as he strives to put his business back together.

Ever since Katrina struck, the immediate response of BAPS Care International to the tragedy and its on going relief efforts have been widely appreciated. "Thank you so very much for your commitment to service. Please let all of the volunteers at BAPS know how proud I am of their commitment to their fellow man. They make me so very proud", stated The Honorable Mayor of Sugar Land, TX, David Wallace.



“As we enter our second week of relief activity, our center in Jackson continues to prepare and provide 3 hot meals a day” explained BAPS Care president, Nilkanth Patel, “We have also mobilized our 45 centers throughout North America to launch our Katrina Relief Fund and collect in kind and monetary donations, this will certainly help us to sustain our current level of relief activities through the Gulf Coast regions”.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Online: www.bapsicare.org

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

Mail: BAPS Care International – Katrina Relief Fund
81 Suttons Lane, Suite 103
Piscataway, NJ 08854

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