PRESS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
MAJOR ALAN PHILLIPS AT
(904) 545-1371 OR (904) 276-6677

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE THE BEST WAY TO HELP THE SALVATION ARMY WITH RELIEF EFFORT RIGHT NOW

The Salvation Army in Northeast Florida has been inundated with calls from residents all around the First Coast, eager to donate food, water, clothing, furniture, and other material items for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. While it is just one more indication of the generosity The Salvation Army experiences whenever times are hard, the organization is appealing to people to make monetary donations instead of material ones at this time.

Sorting, transportation, storage and distribution of the items mentioned above is extremely difficult at this time, especially with the damaged and blocked roadways and communication obstacles. Due to the enormous amount of structural damage, there are no facilities available to warehouse donated items, and processing food and clothing for distribution would be impossible for an extended period of time while the urgent basic needs of the victims are being met by responders. Reportedly, state and federal authorities in the affected areas are turning away unofficial deliveries of donated goods, due to damaged roadways, unstable structures and the astonishing incidences of looting and other crime in the region.

Monetary donations, however, can be used to quickly and efficiently serve those affected by the storm, providing food, shelter, hygiene items and basic necessities such as diapers and formula.

Scores of Salvation Army mobile kitchens are operational throughout the storm-affected areas, busily serving meals prepared from the huge pallets of food and beverages purchased with donated funds. “We can purchase in bulk and really stretch our donated dollars,” says Major Alan Phillips, Incident commander for the Army’s local response efforts. “At some point in the future it may be practical for us to receive individual donations of food and clothing for the victims, but for now it’s justlogistically too difficult to accomplish.”

To make a monetary donation to the Salvation Army’s Hurricane Relief operations, log on to www.salvationarmyusa.org, or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY.

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