



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Week of September 5, 2005

Answering a Call with Compassion

No amount of planning could have prepared the nation, and especially the citizens along the Gulf Coast, for the magnitude of devastation that Hurricane Katrina wreaked on everything and everyone in her path. The powerful storm caught many off guard and left thousands of people without consolation for loved ones lost, without roofs over their heads, without belongings to seek comfort in, and with little hope to start again. But as is often the case when tragedy strikes, strangers and neighbors, near and far, have responded with open arms and generous donations to restore hope and offer help to get hurricane victims back on their feet.

The Gulf Coast Region might be hundreds of miles away from Missouri, but the geographical distance has not muted the calls for help, nor has it deterred countless Missourians from banding together. Nearly 2,000 National Guard personnel have been mobilized from Missouri to assist in rescue and recovery efforts. Early last week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency activated the Missouri Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue unit from Boone County and the Missouri 1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team from St. Louis; a handful of state departments have coordinated volunteer groups to also assist with recovery missions. Missouri hospitals have welcomed patients in need of medical attention, and Missouri businesses and churches have donated goods, food, time and personnel. There has also been a state-wide effort to provide low-cost housing for those displaced, and colleges and universities are offering tuition breaks for students impacted by the storm.

I am impressed with the overwhelming number of Southwest Missourians who have found it in their hearts to reach out to those who have lost so much. Your help will be needed well beyond the next few weeks, so I urge you to take the time to see where your generosity can be of service.

The cities of Joplin, Neosho, Carthage, Webb City and Carl Junction have combined forces in Project "City 2 City" (C2C) to contribute to the ongoing efforts in the hurricane-relief process. A special fund and a donation site have been set up in the area.

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Listed below is contact information for various organizations in need of volunteers or donations:

C2C Relief-Effort Fund

You can make a tax-deductible donation at all U.S. Bank locations, as well as the chambers of commerce in Joplin, Neosho, Carthage, Webb City and Carl Junction. Make check payable to C2C. For credit and debit card transactions, call (417) 624-4150.

Local Donation Site

Drop off canned goods, toiletries, diapers, baby formula, and paper goods at R&R Trucking
302 Thunder Rd., located just east of Duenweg on 7th Street.
(417) 623-6885

American Red Cross

To give blood, call 1-800-448-3543 or visit online www.givelife.org.

To see where volunteers are needed, visit on line: <http://redcross.volunteermatch.org/> or contact:
Jasper & Newton counties —(417)-624-4411 - www.redcross-swmo.org
Dade County — (417)-832-9500 - www.redcross-ozarks.org

The **State Emergency Management Office** in Jefferson City — (888) 526-6664 or online at www.sema.dps.mo.gov

Other organizations accepting monetary donations:

Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation

1-877-435-7521
www.louisiana.gov

Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund

www.mississippirecovery.com
1-866-230-8903

The loss of lives, property and the test of spirit might have been caused by a natural *disaster*, but I find inspiring the natural *response* of compassion with which Missourians have met this tragedy head on. For those who have been displaced or have lost loved ones, the hope that Missouri hands and hearts can offer them is invaluable, and I applaud each and every person who is doing what he or she can to show the victims that the Show-Me State cares.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.*