

Center of Hope/PRC Compassion Providing Mass Distribution of Disaster Relief Provisions

The Center of Hope, in collaboration with PRC Compassion, is using its 14,000-square-foot warehouse as a collection and distribution center for disaster relief provisions. On Sunday, September 25, an 18-wheeler from the center was the first to bring aid to the coastal areas decimated by Hurricane Rita.

“We have been sending disaster relief supplies to New Orleans, Slidell, Gulfport, Kenner, and other areas effected by Hurricane Katrina, but now we have expanded our service to the west to help those affected by Hurricane Rita,” said Roger Bower, director of the Center of Hope.

Eighteen-wheelers arrive seven days a week at the center, either bringing food and supplies from all over the country or ready to be loaded with provisions for area churches, shelters, and disaster sites. Groups such as Feed the Hungry from South Bend, Indiana; Operation Outreach from Chillicothe, Missouri; Operation Blessing from Virginia Beach, Virginia; and numerous churches and organizations from Michigan, North Dakota, New York, and the Carolinas are reaching out to Louisiana hurricane victims.

Bower is asking individuals, families, shelters, and church groups needing provisions from the center to please bring proper identification in order to assist workers in record-keeping and qualifying those asking for assistance. “In order to remain accountable to our donors, we are asking those picking up provisions to please provide identification from their organizations or personal identification from those areas impacted by the two hurricanes,” said Bower.

Supplies are arriving in the form of food staples, cereals, juices, pastas, toiletries, clothing, and toys. Clothing and toy donations have been so abundant that the center is redirecting those goods to other distribution centers.

The Center of Hope is located at 10877 Reiger Road, next to the three crosses off Siegen Lane and I-10. For more information, call (225) 293-2522. Monetary donations can be made securely online at www.lifelinefoundation.com.