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**ANECDOTES FROM THE SCHOOLS WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE 12-1 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE CALL FOR HURRICANE RELIEF**

Robert R. Lazar Middle School, Montville, New Jersey

On October 17th, more than 1,000 students and faculty members at Robert R. Lazar Middle School ran laps around a high school track to raise money for the young victims of Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

The students sought pledges for each lap they would run around the high school track or a simple donation. In a 40-minute gym period, they walked over to the high school track and ran as many laps as they could in 20 minutes. The students had several weeks to collect their raised money. When the money was collected and total, the students at Robert R. Lazar Middle School raised an astounding \$52,473. The school donated the money it raised in the walk-a-thon to the nonprofit Save the Children foundation. The contribution is the largest the organization has received for hurricane relief from any school, and most districts, nationwide. The money that was raised will go to help create "safe places" for child hurricane victims to play. It will also help provide psychosocial training sessions for kids and go toward child care programs. The two teachers behind the entire effort -- gym teacher Mark Maire and science teacher Louis Cicenía -- said they were strongly affected by the terrible images of the hurricane on the television and in local newspapers. "The kids have really done a great job", said Mark Maire, "Every single student in the school participated and raised money to help kids who are less fortunate."

Media Links Related to the story:

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/morris/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1132034256203100.xml&coll=1&thispage=1>

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051115/NEWS01/511150311/1005>

http://www.savethechildren.org/emergencies/usa/gulf_coast_hurricanes_eyes_of_children.asp

<http://myschoolonline.com/page/0,1871,34944-180811-38-87916,00.html>

For the national press conference: There will be 6 students attending the National Press Conference: 1 boy and 1 girl will represent 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student body. Each boy and girl has raised the most money for their respected grade level.

"Backpacks from Boise"

Koelsch Elementary, St. Joe's Elementary, and East Junior High Schools

Koelsch Elementary, St. Joe's Elementary and East Junior High joined together to send over 600 backpacks to McComb, Mississippi, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Our goal was to help provide love and comfort to the children in need. Each backpack contained a letter, a blanket, a book, a stuffed animal, school supplies, and snacks. A hand-embroidered tag with the message "With Love From Boise" was attached to each one.

We learned that by inviting others to join us, we could accomplish much more as a group than we could have individually. We have now formed friendships with people we haven't even met! The Superintendent of McComb School District has recently declared the City of Boise their "Partner in Education."

Contact person: Sue Austin, Koelsch Elementary (208-328-2812)

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One of the more unique fund-raising efforts in Loudoun County, Virginia occurred at OUR very own school, **Catoctin Elementary**.

Our Assistant Principal, Miss Jennifer Snead, and our music teacher, Mrs. Kathy Bennett, promised students some crazy added incentives if we raised over \$2,000 for the Hurricane Relief Fund. Miss Snead said she'd dye her hair red, and Mrs. Bennett promised the students that we could throw pies at her if we raised even **one penny more** than that.

The incentives worked! We raised \$2,313.54 in two weeks! On October 18th, Miss Snead unveiled her FLAMING red hair, and invited 2 students from each class to come up and throw a pie at Mrs. Bennett. Thirty-six cans of whipped cream were used to make the pies, which covered Mrs. Bennett and our stage.

The finale came when a handful of teachers donated **extra** funds so that **they** could hit Mrs. Bennett at close range. As Miss Snead stood to one side of the barrage, it definitely "appeared" that she had accepted the better of the two incentives. However, that all changed when 550 students began chanting "Hug her! Hug her!" Mrs. Bennett complied with our wishes, gave Miss Snead a BIG hug, leaving whipped cream on HER from head to toe!!!!

Parkridge Elementary in Baker, Louisiana

Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana on August 29. Our city and School System were spared from all but minor damage. Displaced families began arriving here almost immediately as many homes and 3 large shelters opened their doors. Children were enrolled and placed in classes as soon as September 6. We hired teachers who had been evacuated and opened classes to serve 560 new students. Many donations have enabled us to provide uniforms, supplies, after school tutoring and address other needs. Our children have corresponded with children who have sent book sacks of supplies and letters of encouragement. We wish to thank everyone who has helped.

Kansas: CHORES HELP KATRINA RELIEF!!!

- **Bluejacket-Flint Elementary students** rinsed out their milk cartons and went to work!!! Yes, our kids turned their milk cartons into banks to raise money for the Katrina hurricane victims! It was a truly labor of LOVE for our children to show they care! The children were asked to do CHORES for family, friends, & the community! Here are some of the ways they earned cash to help change lives!
 - House cleaning; babysitting; pet sitting; mowing the lawn; raking leaves; taking out the garbage; vacuuming and dusting; cleaning the garage and washing dad's car; making beds and doing laundry; cooking dinner and washing dishes; feeding the pets and walking the dogs; selling tomatoes and even raising and selling a lamb for 4H!!
 - Students worked diligently on their chores and then came back to school with filled milk cartons. It was amazing!!! We collected \$5,000.00 & presented a check to the American Red Cross!!!!
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The Academy of Iowa's fundraiser began to take shape in September. All of our students were aware of the Levee catastrophe but didn't get the full impact until stories started to be told about kids, about pets, about schools. Once their understanding became clearer, The Academy students wanted to help. Not only did we raise what amounted to \$40 dollars per student, we also found a way to give something that money can't buy: Encouragement. One of the best things that came out of a very tragic situation is that we, The Academy, had the good fortune to write letters to different kids in the Katrina catastrophe area. It was reported back to us that the kids in the shelters would pick up the whole stack of letters from our small school—all 80 letters—and read through each and every one of them, taking in the comfort of the words and drawings. When the students from the gulf area wrote back – it was wonderful—because they filled us with the same comfort, knowing that even in our small way, from our intimate-sized school, in the middle of Iowa, we could make a difference.

Pineview Elementary is Sarasota Florida

PVS adopted Pascagoula High School in Mississippi. Students collected personal hygiene items and school supplies.

Bayou Beads was an activity promoted by two seniors. A week of sales generated \$2,500. Middle School Council, Peace Club, parent and local business collected an additional \$5,000.

A 5th grade student ran our latest project. He distributed the traditional orange UNICEF boxes to grades 2 – 5 over Halloween weekend. The coins collected amounted to \$3,500.

Hamilton Public School District #3

Hamilton, MT 59840
Jane Leavell, Spectra Coordinator

Hamilton is a small town nestled in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley of western Montana. We experienced a natural disaster in the form of a massive forest fire during the summer of 2000. Many people lost their homes, or were displaced during that time. We wanted to help those families who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. We kicked off a walk-a-thon early in September at Daly and Grantsdale Elementary Schools. Students walked, jogged, and ran all the while keeping a personal log of the miles they were accumulating. They went into the community and asked for pledges or donations. Our goal was to figuratively walk the 2,333 miles to New Orleans and give the people the money we raised. Daly School gave all the money raised to the American Red Cross, while Grantsdale split the money and bought school supplies for James Madison Foster Elementary School in Monroe, Louisiana.

Other efforts included third grade bake sales at Daly, a read-a-thon at Hamilton Middle School, and proceeds from Hamilton High School Homecoming activities. The money raised from these projects was sent to Oak Grove Lower Elementary School in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The principal is a former teacher from Hamilton. Oak Grove had accepted many displaced students after the hurricane and desperately needed school supplies. To this point we have raised \$7,541.20.

Lakeview California: Schools Doggedly Help Hurricane Effort
10/21/05

Gompers student Joe Aubuchon's generous donation to hurricane relief efforts last month paid off in an unexpected way this week. His donation of more than \$200, which he had been saving for years to buy a rare breed of puppy, inspired State Schools Superintendent Jack O'Connell to present the boy with a 10-week-old white German shepherd.

"That was quite a heroic and selfless act," O'Connell said of the boy's donation while addressing students at a surprise assembly. He presented Gompers with a certificate of recognition for the nearly \$1,400 the school has raised for hurricane relief.

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"This school really stepped up in a big way, and so did other schools throughout the state," O'Connell said. Students and staff in public schools statewide have raised more than \$800,000 for hurricane relief, he said.

The first grader already had a name picked out for his new dog * Marshmallow. He has raised another \$65 by doing household chores, and he pledged to donate that money to hurricane relief, too.

The Long Beach Unified School District has now accepted 40 students who were displaced from the Gulf Coast. Students and staff throughout the district continue to raise funds in support of the relief efforts.

* Poly raised \$8,177 over a one-week period for the Hurricane Katrina Fund. Efforts included class-to-class collections by the Poly Student Commission, JROTC and Peer Counselors, sale of products donated by food vendors, and collections at the first home football game with the assistance of the Long Beach Fire Department. Funds were divided among Operation USA, American Red Cross, and Salvation Army. Each of the six New Orleans students enrolled at Poly were given \$100 gift cards to a local retailer.

* Cubberley raised \$4,000 in support of relief efforts.

* Rogers collected \$2,678. Donations went to the Red Cross and to Oprah's Angel Network which provides home supplies and appliances.

* The recreation staff, community and school student body at Robinson raised \$1,600. They sent some funds to a school in the New Orleans School District, gave money to the Red Cross and wrote a check for \$500 to Betty Hucks in the Office of School Recreation. She forwarded the amount to her mother, who lived in New Orleans and lost her home due to flooding. Staff at the Administration Building also contributed to the fund.

* Efforts at Butler have raised \$2,670. Brooke Polius, fourth grade student and Hurricane Katrina survivor, presented the donation to a Red Cross representative at an all-school assembly.

* The MacArthur community, students, parents and staff have collected more than \$1,900 to donate to the Red Cross.

* Lindbergh students and staff collected \$1,025 for the Red Cross.

* Burbank raised more than \$1,500 for hurricane victims. Approximately \$430 went to the Red Cross. The remainder was used to assist the two families from New Orleans who are newly enrolled at Burbank.

* Prisk is selling links in a paper chain that lets purchasers write an encouraging thought. Links are connected into a chain that will run the length of the school's main hallway. Students and staff will continue the effort into January. Proceeds will be donated to the Houston Independent School District.

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Beverly hills, California:

Max:

Horace Mann School worked hard this fall to take care of the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Take a look at all of the amazing ways Horace Mann students showed they care!

Nicole S.:

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Ms. Arth, Ms. Cohen, and Ms. Knowles' second graders...
discussed Hurricane Katrina and the needs of those who survived the hurricane. They measured out two quarts of water to see how much water the average person needs per day. Then the students filled quart bottles with quarters in an effort to raise money for The American Red Cross!

Lucas:
Ms. Helphand's third graders...
discussed the devastation left behind by the hurricane and then raised money for The American Red Cross!

Abbie:
Mrs. Friedman and Ms. Woodring's fourth graders...
collected cans and bottles in an effort to better our immediate environment by recycling. They then took the money raised and donated it to the American Red Cross!

Jesse:
Mrs. Paul's fourth graders...
read and read and read in order to generate a donation of 60 new books for children affected by the hurricane!

Michael:
Ms. Kashanian, Ms. Kreshek, and Ms. Gilmour's fifth graders...
worked on the first theme of their reading series, "Nature's Fury" and then discussed the consequences of natural disasters. After brainstorming, the classes decided to bring in money to support the relief efforts of The American Red Cross!

Francesca:
Mrs. Mason's sixth graders...
read newspaper articles, recounted personal stories, and had many class discussions about the hurricane and The American Red Cross. Then the class filled a coffee can with loose change in an effort to raise money for The American Red Cross!

Nicole B.:
Ms. Zanka, Ms. Lanzetta, and Ms. Call's students...
did research, created posters, gave speeches, and worked hard leading a school wide effort to raise money for the Humane Society!

Lucas:
Ms. Fleishman, Ms. Helphand, Mrs. Kaber, Ms. Pearce's third graders...
worked hard to support UNICEF's efforts. They coordinated class presentations by UCLA students, and led the students of Horace Mann in trick or treating for UNICEF.

Max:
The Horace Mann PTA...
sold "Horace Mann Husky" wristbands to benefit The American Red Cross!

Nicole B.:
The students of Horace Mann School are proud to have done our part to help the people and animals affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Horace Mann School's Hurricane Katrina Fundraising
Grand Total so far is \$3,485.42 !

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Elbert-Palmer in Delaware

For Hurricane -Relief These Kids Mean Business

The three students that will be participating on the telephone conference are the students who initiated the idea of the fundraisers.

Anecdotes:

Marissa

For Market Day, 6th grade students created small businesses selling products and services to the entire school and community. Products and services included baked goods, toys, jewelry, manicures, and face painting. This was an opportunity to empower kids to take charge of a student initiated idea and run with it. Everyone had a blast.

Ashley

Our Kids Helping Kids Carnival had many fun activities such as moon bounces, dunk tank, face painting, and raffling items donated by various businesses. Our principal and dean were the first to volunteer to be dunked. They were each dunked only once.

Tamika

We publicized Market Day and The Kids Helping Kids Carnival for community support. Our school's efforts were advertised on TV, in a newspaper, and we handed out flyers in the community. Our total money raised was \$3000.00.

www.delawareonline.com

Go to Archives for the **Business** section

The article was printed on **October 6, 2005**

The ID for the article is **wil17555150**

The author of the article was **Robin Brown**

KIPP Academy is a public charter middle school in Houston, TX, serving 352 students in grades 5-8 in a college preparatory environment. Our mission is to work with students from low-income families and get them ready to be successful in high school, college, and life.

Since 1994, when KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) started, other similar KIPP middle schools have started throughout the country with an identical mission. More than 40 schools have started with our school as the model for a middle school. And last year, in Houston, the first ever KIPP early childhood program – KIPP SHINE – and the first KIPP high school – KIPP Houston High School – joined that growing movement of schools dedicated to the same mission.

When our kids and faculty learned of the tragic loss facing our neighbors in Louisiana, we immediately shot to action to help: raising money; gathering clothing, food, and water; and, collecting school supplies to be used by students displaced from the hurricane.

While this was definitely helpful, we realized that given the number of evacuees joining us in our city, this was the time for KIPP in Houston step up as citizens. To that end, KIPP in Houston – along with Gary Robichaux and a group of dedicated teachers from New Orleans – started a school appropriately titled KIPP NOW (New Orleans West) here in Houston to serve almost entirely Louisiana students.

In partnership with KIPP, Teach For America (a national corps of recent college graduates who choose to serve as teachers for two years in areas of the country that desperately need committed teachers), and the Houston Independent School district, KIPP NOW opened to serve as many elementary and middle school-aged Louisiana children as we could find in the city.

We did not just want to start a school; we wanted to start an extremely effective school that would dedicate itself to the same mission as our school. To that end, our students worked to help train the Teach For America teachers working at KIPP NOW in the standards we expect at KIPP and to share some strategies we have used to teach those standards. KIPP NOW has tapped into an enormous number of resources, including UNICEF's unique School-in-a-Box program.

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Given the tremendous amount of trauma that our KIPPsters at KIPP NOW have faced already, and given the immense effort they are putting into their classes to catch up on the time lost in school, we are speaking on their behalf on this great day.

On their behalf, as well as all KIPPsters here in Houston, we want to extend a profound thanks to everyone around the country who has stepped up to help in this enormous time of need here in the United States. As Dr. King once said that one's character is defined in times of crisis. From the perspective of the KIPP NOW kids, as well as the perspective of our children throughout Houston, every penny, nickel, dime, and dollar have counted.

And while so much has been done to help so far, there is a tremendous amount of work left to be done. Just because the cameras are not focusing in as frequently on the destruction and trauma left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the rebuilding is by no means finished. Please continue to do precisely what your hearts have urged you to do to this point. The numbers shared on this phone call are staggering, but still it is not enough.

Joseph M. Miller
Director, KIPP to College

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