



For Immediate Release:

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Citizens of Douglas County, CO adopt 'Katrina'-ravaged Citizens of Jackson County, MS

September 12, 2005. Over Labor Day, last weekend, some family and friends gathered around a patio-table in Castle Rock, CO and listened to Sam Stairs as she shared her vision to bring some aid to the families who have been decimated by Hurricane Katrina along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She had received a phone call from her nephew the day before who had said that he had \$50.00 he wanted to donate to "Katrina" victims and asked her who he should give it to. Sam, who works with the Douglas County Sheriff's Department – like her nephew and like so many of us, had become so moved by the news coverage of Hurricane Katrina and the human-need left in it's wake, that as she thought about her nephews question, decided that she would take some steps of her own in organizing a Douglas County, CO 'Katrina Relief' event where money could be raised to bring some relief to the faces she was seeing on her TV screen each evening – *and* where she would know that ALL of the money raised would actually reach the victims of this tragedy.

For Dianna Taylor, who attended that first meeting and who works with the Arson Investigation Unit of the City of Castle Rock Fire & Rescue, within days of the storm she began hearing first-hand about the devastation that Katrina inflicted from many of her family-members located in the Gulf Coast town of Ocean Springs, MS. Many of her family members – like her, serve in law-enforcement and fire and rescue along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. "Most of them have not only lost their homes, but even the Police cars and Fire/Rescue trucks and equipment where they work have all been completely destroyed by the hurricane and the flooding. Without that equipment they no longer even have the tools to begin to help the citizens within their towns and communities...", Dianna told the group.

That was the catalyst for the formation of the "**Douglas County, CO Cares – Katrina Relief**" event (see details below). "This event will be a people-helping-people, grass-roots kind of event...", said Chris de Diego, who has been helping committee with a laundry-list of items and has been working with the Douglas County Sheriff and the County's Commissioners in setting up the relief event. "While great work is being done by the Red Cross and the Salvation Army and others, we are a group of nine or ten regular-folks who responded to the needs we saw on our TVs and wanted to do something more directly". Terry Schriener, who's 'Shiloh River Band' will play at the relief event added, "Douglas County's businesses and its people are a very caring and generous people and most folks that I talk to very much want to get the donations of food, clothing and cash directly into the hands of the families who need immediate help – without the operational expenses of the larger relief efforts".

The day after their Labor Day meeting, committee member Jeannine Moynahan began calling the emergency relief agencies within Jackson County, MS about how the group might best help in meeting some of the needs there. "At first I couldn't find any of the phone numbers even working yet...", she recalled. "The only phone number that answered was the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, where a staffer named Linda was as surprised as I was that the phone was even working!" She was given a cell-phone number for the President of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, Manly Barton (www.co.jackson.ms.us) who was finally able to return her call on his cell phone later that day. "The need here is great...", he told her. "I know much of the coverage and the emergency relief efforts are being focused on New Orleans and coastal Louisiana and for good reason. But the Mississippi coast line has been decimated too. We are a County of about 135,000 folks and as of today there are more than 100,000 who are homeless – their homes are no longer something they can live in..." From Supervisor Manly, she was directed to call Royce Cumbest, President/CEO of Merchants & Marine Bank (www.mandmbank.com) and Todd Trenchard, Communications Director for Merchants & Marine Bank and the

newly appointed Executive Director of "Hurricane Relief – Rebuild Jackson County" (www.bacotmccarty.org) – a newly created non-profit entity established by local business professionals within Jackson County to receive donations and deliver direct-relief to those families within their county affected by the hurricane.

"We took some lessons learned from friends within Escambia County in Northwest Florida", Todd told her. "After Hurricane Ivan, they set up a non-profit so that they would be better able to accept the direct donations of food, clothing and cash that poured in after that storm. Here in Jackson County, with the help of the Bacot/McCarty Foundation, we have set up "Hurricane Relief – Rebuild Jackson County" as a 501(c)(3), so that donations are fully tax-deductible. And we've had a lot of help in getting this started, from local Mississippians like the band '3 Doors Down', who have donated their time and money, as have NFL stars, Shane Matthews (Quarterback/Buffalo Bills) and Terrell Buckley (Cornerback/NY Jets) – each of these folks, and others have added their voice to our efforts to meet the needs here. It blesses me greatly and it humbles me to see how fellow Americans – both great and small, are so willing to help. Our hope is that through financial gifts to "Hurricane Relief - Rebuild Jackson County Fund" we can channel relief resources directly to those who need it most to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance, based on the real need and without the normal and unnecessary delays."

Through the generosity of Douglas County, CO's Commissioners and with the help of Douglas County Sheriff David A. Weaver and his team, the Douglas County Events Center has been provided at no-cost as a venue for the "**Douglas County Cares – Katrina Relief' Event**, to be held **Friday, September 23rd, 2005**.

Now, we need YOUR support in meeting our goal of raising \$1 million dollars to be presented on behalf of the Citizens of Douglas County, CO to our adopted County of Jackson, Mississippi. The committee is asking for cash, checks and/or item donations which will be used to raise money during the event (see details below) through live and silent auctions. ALL of the money raised during this effort will be given directly to the "Hurricane Relief - Rebuild Jackson County Fund" through a special account set up with Castle Rock Bank, here in Castle Rock, CO and will then go DIRECTLY to the families impacted by this disaster. Please note, all monetary donations must be either cash or made by check – NO CREDIT CARDS will be accepted.

All donations need to be made payable to: Hurricane Relief - Rebuild Jackson County Fund. This is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization, sponsored by the Bacot/McCarty Foundation in Pascagoula, MS. Please feel free to contact Todd Trenchard, Executive Director, "Hurricane Relief – Rebuild Jackson County Fund" at 228-217-5791, or Douglas County, CO Sheriff David A. Weaver's office with any validation concerns or questions at (303) 660-7505.

Event Details and Location:
September 23, 2005
Douglas County Fair Grounds - Event Center
500 Fairgrounds Dr.
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Event Information Line: 303-660-7558

Afternoon Events - 10am to 2pm

"**Kids for Katrina**" This time will include: face painting, DC Kids Care projects (kids can make notes for the children in the evacuation centers in Jackson County, MS). There will be food, drinks and a planned time with our Colorado sports celebrities' for some autographs.

Evening Events – 5pm to Midnight

The evening event will include: Performances by The Douglas County High School Orchestra, several honor guards and a number of special guests through-out the day including: Senator Tom Weins, Douglas County Sheriff Weaver, and many others, who are being added daily! Pre-event tickets will include a BBQ dinner catered by Flying Horse Catering and you can dance to the music of the Shiloh River Band, and DJ Rob Shank. Live and silent auctions will be conducted thru-out the evening event.

**"Douglas County Cares – Katrina Relief'
Committee members**

Sam Stairs
Shannon Moynahan
Chris de Diego
Debbie Schriner

Mary Mossey
Jeannine Moynahan
Melissa de Diego

Dianna Taylor
Erin Moynahan
Terry Schriner

Special Thanks to:

The Douglas County, CO Commissioners and the Douglas County Sheriffs' Office, Sheriff David A. Weaver