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**COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN**

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**Public Agencies Set Up Local Katrina  
Relief Coalition for Evacuees to San Joaquin County**

(Stockton, CA) — San Joaquin County government, United Way of San Joaquin County, and the American Red Cross continue to coordinate community services for evacuees of Katrina who come to San Joaquin County through a community Relief Coalition. The Red Cross has opened 76 cases, consisting of a total of 296 people. The San Joaquin County Relief Coalition is providing assistance that includes housing, food, medical care, jobs, clothing and other needs through various community agencies. The Coalition is asking for help from the community to provide financial and other aid.

San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services Director Ron Baldwin said, “The job of the Coalition is to bridge the gap to provide services for these families and other families that may come here as a result of Hurricane Katrina.” Many of the people who have come to San Joaquin County are here because their families are here and have provided a place for the evacuees to stay. Others have come to the county through various church organizations, who acted swiftly to offer assistance.

Evacuees who initially arrive in the county should contact the American Red Cross during office hours or by telephone 24-hours a day at 209-466-6971 to register and receive immediate assistance. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office is located just north of I-5 at 747 N. Pershing Ave. Red Cross is providing a point-of-entry contact and will process evacuees and provide information on services. Evacuees are encouraged to continue to try to reach FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 or through the FEMA web site at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Working with Red Cross, the San Joaquin County Human Services Agency is processing evacuees and determining housing, financial, medical and other immediate needs.

Evacuees will be provided with emergency and/or temporary legal paperwork as needed. Schools, medical and mental health providers, churches, community agencies, employment agencies, social service programs and others have offered immediate and more long-term assistance as needed. More than 40 public and private agencies are part of the Coalition. Evacuees can contact the Red Cross

at 466-6971 or the United Way at 469-6980 to be referred to a lead agency for coordinating different types of services. The Relief Coalition will also be organizing outreach efforts to ensure that evacuees are aware of available services and how to access them.

United Way has set up a special fund to assist these evacuees in meeting financial needs. Donations are also being sought to meet other needs, such as clothing, furniture, household items, and children's toys.

Donations are needed. To donate cash to the Victims of Katrina in San Joaquin County Fund, call Donna at United Way, 209-469-6980. To donate furniture, clothing and/or household items and toys, call Charter House Center for Families at 209-476-1106. To work with an agency to provide job placement assistance for these evacuees, call EDD at 209-948-7856. To provide housing assistance for evacuees call San Joaquin County Human Services Agency at 209-468-1926 or 468-1221. One of the most immediate needs of the evacuees is the use of a temporary cell phone or prepaid calling card to contact local public agencies to arrange services or to call relatives in the area affected by the Hurricane.

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