



Harris County Hospital District

MEDIA RELEASE

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Responding to Katrina's Aftermath

HCHD plays significant role in help

The Hospital District began a major role in the care of evacuees from the devastated areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

In collaboration with city, county and state officials, HCHD will provide exclusive medical care to the 23,000 evacuees housed in the Reliant Astrodome.

People from New Orleans' Superdome have been arriving at the Astrodome since Aug. 31. The monumental transport has used about 500 buses.

"This is a terrible tragedy for our neighbors along the central Gulf Coast—many of whom have sought shelter in our community," said David S. Lopez, President and CEO. "We are absolutely committed to working with our other local healthcare partners in being of service to our community's guests."

The Hospital District has created the Astrodome Health Clinic, staffed entirely by HCHD and physicians from Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston, to provide medical care to the evacuees during their stay in Houston.

While the clinic requires a significant commitment from HCHD, Lopez assures the community that there will be no disruption or reduction of services provided to Harris County residents.

Those who wish to provide assistance can make donations online at www.redcross.org or by calling 1-800-HELP-NOW. Your donations will enable American Red Cross volunteers to provide critical necessities to thousands of victims left homeless.

By making a financial gift to Hurricane 2005 Relief, the Red Cross can provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those in need. The Houston Chapter is committed to meeting the humanitarian needs of the people in our area. If you are currently hosting victims of the hurricane, we encourage you to call the local office of the Red Cross at 713-526-8300 for assistance.

The Harris County Hospital District is the public health care system for the nation's third most-populous county. It provides more than 1.1 million health care visits each year to uninsured and underinsured residents of Harris County. The hospital district operates Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Quentin Mease Community Hospital, 12 community health centers, a dental center, eight school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

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