

**Southern Baptist Hurricane Response**  
**Fact Sheet**  
September 2, 2005

At the request of the **American Red Cross (ARC)**, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has ramped up to prepare 300,000 meals daily. **Thirty-eight mobile disaster relief kitchens** from as far away as California and Virginia are activated to support ARC operations.

Each kitchen is coming with a cleanup and recovery unit. Many will travel with a shower unit and communications unit. As of Thursday morning, there are more than **130 mobile disaster relief units** engaged in the Katrina response.

Each kitchen arrived with an inventory of **20,000 meals and will be re-supplied by the ARC.**

Southern Baptists now have more than **1,200 volunteers** engaged in the Katrina response effort.

Southern Baptist volunteers will staff two ARC kitchens: **The Spirit of America** and **Henry's Kitchen.**

ARC has asked Southern Baptist Disaster Relief to be prepared to quickly **escalate the meal count to 500,000 if needed.**

ARC and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief have worked together under a **memorandum of understanding since 1987.** A model of strategic alliances between non-profit organizations, the partnership is estimated to save at least \$8 million annually.

**Southern Baptist Disaster Relief supports The Salvation Army's (TSA) operations.** Southern Baptist volunteers will staff two TSA mobile feeding units and operate at least four additional Southern Baptist mobile feeding units.

TSA and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief have worked together under a memorandum of understanding since 2001.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief also has memorandums of understanding with **Homeland Security (FEMA)** and **Mercy Medical Airlift.**

The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Alpharetta, Ga., coordinates multi-state and international responses by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has more than **600 mobile disaster response units** and **more than 30,000 trained volunteers.** State Baptist conventions recruit and train the volunteers from Southern Baptist churches. State conventions, associations, and churches own the vast majority of hard assets.

People have been evacuated from the Superdome to the Astrodome in Houston. The state is asking for assistance from churches to transport these evacuees and others to **cities of refuge**.

**Spiritual counsel** is available at 1 800 537-8720.

Donations to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief can be made at [www.namb.net/disasterrelief](http://www.namb.net/disasterrelief), **1 888 571-5895**, or **North American Mission Board, P. O. Box 116543, Atlanta, GA 30368-6543**.

**Media** assistance is available at **1 800-462-8657, ext. 5200**.