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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BEATEN, SEXUALLY ASSAULTED, AND LIVING IN A HURRICANE EVACUATION
SHELTER OR A MAKESHIFT TENT CITY . . .
KATRINA VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
STILL NEED YOUR HELP.**

*“Fleeing for my life and my children’s safety two times in the same week is something I
couldn’t even imagine until it happened to us last week.”*

*“When we went to the Red Cross Shelter, they were really nice to us, but I couldn’t get away
from him . . . my husband. He watched me, followed me, and would pinch me very hard on my
legs and upper arms when no one was looking. He blamed me for us being in the shelter and
punched me in the stomach when I asked him what he meant.”*

*“I was humiliated. He (my boyfriend) forced me to have sex with him and this other man in
the shelter. I was scared to tell anyone.
What would happen to me and my children if I told?”*

**YOUR HELP IS STILL NEEDED
RELIEF EFFORTS TARGET ONE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE
POPULATIONS – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS**

PLEASE DONATE

Louisiana Domestic Violence Victim’s Hurricane Relief Fund

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV), a private 501c3, not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1982, is **establishing a Louisiana Domestic Violence Victim’s Hurricane Relief Fund** to assist victims of domestic violence and child victimization who are displaced and affected by Hurricane Katrina.

To date the relief fund has received about \$60,000 in donations, but more is needed. The MS Foundation for Women donated \$15,000. The National Network to End Domestic Violence donated \$20,000. The Shelter Alliance donated \$5,000 and the Tides Foundation has donated \$2,500. LCADV has received numerous donations from individuals throughout the US – from

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Katrina Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence Still Need Your Help.*

attorneys, doctors, authors, battered women, battered women's shelters, caring individuals, NOW members, domestic violence support groups, etc. Offers for assistance have poured into our office and LCADV would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each donor. BUT ADDITIONAL DONATIONS ARE NEEDED. PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD.

“Four of our domestic violence shelters and two nonresidential programs are completely closed at the time and two or three may be completely destroyed. We have battered women and children who are trying to relocate to safety. **Also we have received reports that women are being battered by their partners in the emergency shelters and they need our assistance,**” stated Merni Carter, Executive Director of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She goes on to say, “Sadly domestic violence and child victimization are social problems that do not stop during this natural disaster and with cessation of all direct services in the gulf coast region, a huge metropolitan area of over 1 million people, there is the increased need for relocation and basic monetary assistance is essential for these battered hurricane evacuees.”

LCADV is accepting donations that are specifically earmarked to assist battered survivors and their children who have been directly affected/displaced by the hurricane. The donations will be used to assist battered victims from the following parishes in Louisiana: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines.

The donations will be used for the following purposes:

1. Relocation of domestic violence victims.
2. Purchasing of basic needs, i.e. baby formula, diapers, food, clothing, etc. that could not be met elsewhere.
3. Deposits on houses, electric bills,
4. Car repair, gas, public transportation
5. Medical/prescription needs,
6. Other basic, life sustaining needs

All donations go directly to victims of domestic violence affected by this hurricane and will not be used for any administrative or other purposes.

The website is www.lcadvhrf.org. Also learn more about LCADV by logging onto www.lcadv.org.

Other ways to make donations:

If you would like to make a donation using MasterCard or Visa, you may contact the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence office at 225-752-1296 with your credit card information. Donations may also be electronically deposited into our account by faxing a voided check with the amount of the donation to (225)751-8927. LCADV will setup an electronic deposit and you will receive confirmation of your donation with the tax-deductible receipt.

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV)

LCADV, a private not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization, is a statewide network of battered women's programs, other organizations, and individuals who share the goal of ending violence against women and children in Louisiana. The Coalition coordinates a statewide network of 20 community-based domestic violence programs. In addition to coordinating life-saving services throughout the state of Louisiana, *LCADV* focuses on public policy development, training and technical assistance, increasing public awareness and education as related to domestic violence and child victimization. *LCADV* operates the Louisiana Domestic Violence Hotline.