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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RELIEF EFFORTS TARGET ONE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
AFFECTED BY KATRINA – VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

(September 2, 2005) WASHINGTON, DC – As our nation is gathering to support the thousands of communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina, two efforts by the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) and the National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund (NNEDV Fund) are focusing on providing aid to victims of domestic violence and domestic violence shelters impacted by the hurricane.

LCADV has launched the 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.

"Four of our shelters and two nonresidential programs are completely closed at this time and two or three may be completely destroyed," said Merni Carter, executive director of LCADV. "Sad to say, domestic violence and child victimization are social problems that do not stop during this natural disaster we are experiencing and with cessation of all direct services in the gulf coast region, the increased need for relocation and basic monetary assistance is essential for these women and children."

The Louisiana Relief Fund will be used to directly assist battered victims from the following parishes in Louisiana: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines.

LCADV is asking for support from individuals and corporations across the country. To donate, please call 225-752-1296.

In addition, the National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund is setting aside a portion of its Direct Assistance Fund to help domestic violence victims in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. In partnership with the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation and Altria Group, Inc., NNEDV Fund's Direct Assistance Fund will grant up to \$6,000 in emergency funding to domestic violence programs to pay for services and supplies needed to serve victims. In addition, the Direct Assistance Fund will provide emergency grants up to \$2,000 to victims of domestic violence directly impacted by the hurricane.

"Victims of domestic violence are often invisible members of our communities," said Lynn Rosenthal, executive director of the NNEDV Fund. "With many Gulf Coast domestic violence shelters closed due to damage, NNEDV Fund and our partners are dedicating our resources to ensure that victims and their children do not fall through the

cracks.”

The Direct Assistance Fund application process usually takes one week; however, due to the extreme nature of this disaster, NNEDV Fund is expediting the application process.

“Although it is still too early to gauge the full extent of damage, we want to make sure we are able to immediately respond to the needs of our shelters and those they serve,” said Rosenthal.

To donate, please send a check payable to:

Direct Assistance Fund
The National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund
660 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Suite 303
Washington, DC 20003

Donors should indicate on the check that the contribution is Hurricane Katrina Relief.

Contributions to NNEDV Fund and LCADV are tax-deductible. All donations will go directly to victims of domestic violence and domestic violence shelters. They will not be used for organizational administrative costs.

National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund

The National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund (NNEDV Fund) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing public education, training, and technical assistance to maintain and develop the professional expertise of advocates working to end domestic violence. The NNEDV Fund strives to strengthen advocates as organizers and activists in the tradition of social change movements. For more information, please visit www.nnedvfund.org.

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