



DFW International is the portal to international North Texas, linking 1,600 internationally focused civic, community and educational organizations. Our **Mission** is to promote and link North Texas ethnic and immigrant groups, empowering them as respected members of the community and giving them a forum through which to express, share and celebrate the richness of their cultural heritages. Our **Vision** is the recognition of DFW as an international metroplex which embodies the cultural and economic vibrancy of the global community.

It is estimated that it will cost \$100 billion to restore New Orleans. Meanwhile, 25,000 refugees have reached Dallas' shelters. We have been given a rare opportunity to showcase the best of our nation. Americans who do not wait for institutions or for political leaders to reach out and touch those who are in pain. While it is altruistic to write a check, the true test of help comes with lending a shoulder and a hand, with understanding and love.

Guidelines for Organizations

How to **ADOPT** a Refugee Family from the Katrina Disaster

*We are **ONE FAMILY**, brothers and sisters.*

CHECKLIST for SPONSORS:

-
- APARTMENT
 - FURNITURE
 - TV
 - SOCIAL SECURITY
 - TEXAS ID/DRIVER'S LICENSE
 - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
 - SCHOOL
 - JOB SEARCH
 - DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENTS
 - CLOTHING
 - TRAUMA
 - TRANSPORTATION

For further information call:

DFW International - 972-661-2764

Love in Action International – 469-241-9001



UNITING INTERNATIONALLY-FOCUSED CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



DFW International is the portal to international North Texas, linking 1,600 internationally focused civic, community and educational organizations. Our **Mission** is to promote and link North Texas ethnic and immigrant groups, empowering them as respected members of the community and giving them a forum through which to express, share and celebrate the richness of their cultural heritages. Our **Vision** is the recognition of DFW as an international metroplex which embodies the cultural and economic vibrancy of the global community.

Guidelines for Organizations

How to **ADOPT** a Refugee Family from the Katrina Disaster

The most important thing one can do for individuals/families in such cases is to welcome them warmly, remembering they are traumatized. It is preferable to have a meeting with the family and your representative in order to include them in the decision process before selecting an apartment if possible.

You might consider temporary housing for the family for a day or two (in someone's home) WHILE your group is finding and preparing the apartment

If it is not possible to meet before renting the apartment, schedule the meeting as soon as possible. Their apartment should be fully furnished and stocked with basic foods for immediate use. If it is possible to have someone to actually prepare meals for a few days that would be in order.

1. APARTMENT

You may want to choose an apartment convenient to the sponsoring group. In checking on lease, rent, application fee and deposit, bear in mind that all these things are negotiable. Everyone needs to share the burden.

First listen to their normal deal which might be the first month's rent free and ask for further concessions (for example waiving the application fee and deposit). The application fee is normally \$25 and deposit can be \$100 to \$200. Also ask for a lease agreement for three months (6 months is usually the minimum). Some local apartments have been offering one month renewable leases for the refugees.

The family may not be independent in three months but that needs to be the goal. Expect a one bedroom apartment to be between \$350 and \$500 and a two bedroom to be between \$550 and \$700. Utilities could run up to \$150 a month. Bear in mind you are going to turn the responsibility over to the individual/family as soon as possible (3 to 6 months). Therefore, choose an apartment they are going to be able to afford. Expect beginning salary for unskilled labor to be \$7.00 an hour – in that case they will bring home around \$1100 a month.

2. FURNISHINGS

Community organizations, religious institutions and large businesses should be able to obtain donated furnishings donated through their members and networks of associates. Used furniture is also available from the Dallas Furniture Bank, 1421 Champion Dr. Carrollton, TX 75006, 972-241-6558, e-mail sherylbogen@SBCglobal.net. Prices are cheap, and a sofa costs \$20. If you do not have an organization through which you can purchase furniture at their nominal fee, check with organizations listed below. Salvation Army sells their used furniture. Check to see if they would donate furniture for this need. The Catholic Diocese also has a furniture center.





3. TV

A good television is a necessity for a displaced family, as it provides crucial news, psychological grounding, and free entertainment. If you are hosting the family for a very short period of time, you might consider lending a television rather than purchasing one. Music is also a helpful element, and a radio/CD player is recommended.

4. SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

Replace social security cards and redirect checks. One address for Social Security in this area is: 10600 Stepington, Dallas, TX 75230 Phone is 800-722-1213.

5. TEXAS ID/DRIVER'S LICENSE

6. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Apply for food stamps and Medicaid. 1-877-556-2200. Individual offices across North Texas are listed on their website at <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/>

7. SCHOOL

Enroll children in school. Some school districts are waiving the requirement for immunization records. For information in case of problems regarding shot records, contact Patricia Langley, State Health Department at 214-819-1922.

8. JOB SEARCH

As noted above, expect beginning salary for unskilled labor to be \$7 an hour or full-time take home pay \$1100 a month. Convenience store and fast food restaurants often have job openings.

9. DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Many doctors will treat a needy evacuee patient one or two times without charge.

10. CLOTHING

Clothing is the easiest need to meet in this country of plenty, as we recycle enormous amounts. Underwear, socks and shoes should be new.

11. TRAUMA

Be aware that every person coming out of New Orleans has been traumatized and is probably not behaving as they normally would. Having experienced such loss and stress, they are most likely experiencing shock. Shock was once described to me by a psychotherapist this way: When something so painful occurs that a person can't take it in, we are gifted with a kind of safety valve. It's like an hour glass so that we are able to accept what we've experienced a little at a time. Our mind focuses on survival and other abilities seem to shut down. For instance, in such cases one seems to lose all ability to organize their thoughts or to think through what one needs to do next. From caretakers they need understanding and nurturing.

12. TRANSPORTATION

If your family does not have a car, check that their apartment is on a bus line and within walking distance of a supermarket.

13. Important links

- Dallas Salvation Army 1-800-253-1868
- North Texas Food Bank 214-331-4353
- Central Dallas Ministries) 214-823-8710



UNITING INTERNATIONALLY-FOCUSED CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Dallas Assistance Guide for Katrina Evacuees

Dallas Reunion Arena:

777 Sports St., Dallas, Texas 75207; 214-939-2770

City of Dallas information and referral help line:

Dial 211

City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management:

214-670-4275

DallasNews.com:

See our listing of resources, including services and discounts for evacuees, at dallasnews.com/katrinahelp

Driver's license office:

Dallas City Hall
Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday
1500 Marilla 1B South
Dallas, Texas 75201-6300
General Information: 214-651-1859

FEMA:

Toll-free crisis counseling hot line: 800-621-3362
FEMA Disaster Assistance Process: www.fema.gov/about/process/

Food Stamps:

800-500-4266

Help children cope with trauma:

www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/childtrauma.html

Legal issues:

The American Bar Association, in cooperation with FEMA, has opened 24-hour toll-free numbers for victims of Hurricane Katrina who need free legal assistance or advice.

Louisiana residents: 800-310-7029
Mississippi residents: 866-255-4495
Alabama residents: 800-354-6154

Callers will be connected with lawyers from local bar associations who will answer legal questions and provide assistance for problems resulting from the disaster. The ABA is also mobilizing lawyers and law students to provide pro bono legal assistance to Katrina victims.

Library cards:

The Dallas Public Library is offering residents of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi who are temporarily displaced a Dallas Public Library card.

The downtown Central Library is a short walk from Reunion Arena, 1515 Young at Ervay streets, 214-670-1400. Opens at 9 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday.

Mental health hot line:

24-7 free counseling from United Health Care: 866-615-8700

Medical services:

Staff from Parkland Memorial Hospital, Children's Medical Center and Dallas County Health and Human Services will assess medical needs of people housed at Reunion Arena. For information about where Louisiana residents can obtain prescription refills, medical care or general assistance, contact the American Red Cross at 214-678-4800. In addition, two of Parkland's Homeless Outreach Medical Services (HOMES) vans were being stationed at Reunion Arena from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily through Sept. 9.



Pets:

SPCA of Texas
362 S. Industrial Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75207

The SPCA will take in animals whose owners are temporarily living in shelters in the Metroplex if the animals are already spayed or neutered and vaccinated or if the owners agree to have the pets spayed or neutered and vaccinated while in the SPCA's care. Space is limited. To apply for this program, please call 972-562-7297, ext 123.

Schools:

Dallas Independent School District hurricane hot line: 972-925-5555

The Dallas Independent School District is opening its doors to students displaced by the storm. Parents may enroll their children at DISD schools with or without documentation.

The district will be working to get this and further information to families in whatever way possible, and urges those with access to a phone to call the above number for further information.

Social Security Office:

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday
3231 M.L. King Jr. Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75210
800-772-1213
From 1-30, take 2nd Ave. to Fair Park, turn right on MLK.

Transportation:

DART is providing local bus and rail passes to those staying at the Reunion Arena shelter. The passes are good for two weeks with a possible two-week extension.

With the passes evacuees will have access to local DART buses, all of the DART rail system and the Trinity Railway Express up to West Irving Station. DART Customer Service staff may be reached by calling 214-979-1111. DART also has a special page for evacuees on its Web site, www.DART.org.

WWLTV's "Search for Someone", "I'm OK", and other forums:

www.wwltv.com/forums/