

Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

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STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We know you join with us in expressing our deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones, homes and businesses, and our fervent hopes that others will be spared in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Let us also hope that rebuilding can begin soon. We also want you to see the urgent message we received from Lorna Bourg, director of Southern Mutual Help Association serving hundreds of thousands of rural people whose lives have been devastated.

Southern Mutual Help Association must call upon all of you to help us. Louisiana is in the midst of a catastrophe. Not only is New Orleans devastated but so are so many of the surrounding rural communities. Fishers and family farmers already under the stress of international trade agreements, have now lost homes and the very means of creating a livelihood to recover. Many rural small businesses are destroyed. The crops in many areas are gone - cane, citrus, soybeans. The fisheries are destroyed in large areas of Louisiana's coast. This is a crisis for small farmers, farm workers and fisher families. SMHA knows from our lengthy recovery from hurricane Andrew in August of 1992 that rural areas are last and receive the least. Focus will understandably be on urban areas such as New Orleans, on oil and gas installations, on search, rescue and the basics of life like water, food, shelter, medical treatment. Many agencies and generous souls will be seeing to those needs. SMHA is still assessing the situation of directly impacted rural communities and families. We already know the Acadiana region around Lafayette will have approximately 150,000 refugees looking first for where to be for the time away from their homes (likely to be lengthy), and secondly how to possibly recover and rebuild their future.

SMHA needs money. It will take millions for dollars in grants and specially structured loans to help rural families recover. After Andrew, SMHA learned a great deal. Specially trained volunteers like doctors, nurses, carpenters are helpful especially if they can be responsible for their own expenses, transportation and shelter out of the impacted area. Too many volunteers and clothes are simply a burden. Well handled money is the most urgently needed response and helps the most. SMHA has, as you know, 36 years of responsibly handling money and achieving mission. Louisiana and the rural poor need you now. Please contact us as soon as possible. In deepest appreciation for you all.
Lorna Bourg
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FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITES

Youth Service America (YSA) has two funding programs to support service learning among young people. First, YSA is offering \$2,000 grants to lead agencies for the 18th Annual National Youth Service Day, April 21-23, 2006. The

deadline is Sept. 12. YSA is also offering one hundred \$1,000 grants for teachers, youth (ages 5-25), and school-based service-learning coordinators to implement service learning projects for National and Global Youth Service Day. The application deadline is Oct. 17. For more information about both programs, visit <http://www.ysa.org> or call 202-296-2992.

The R.O.S.E. (Regaining One's Self-Esteem) Fund is a national nonprofit organization committed to recognizing, assisting and empowering women who have broken the cycle of domestic violence. It is offering grants up to \$10,000 to nonprofit organizations to encourage personal growth beyond the initial recovery from domestic violence. The deadline is October 1. For more information, visit www.rosefund.org/programs/grants.asp or call 617-482-5400.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards recognize middle and high school students involved in volunteer community service. Application packets are mailed each fall to all public and private middle-level and high schools, and to supporting organizations. Two state honorees will be chosen in and each will receive an award of \$1,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C. in May 2006. Out of the state honorees, ten will receive an additional award of \$5,000. The deadline is October 31. For more information, visit www.prudential.com/community/spirit/ or call 888-450-9961.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and its subsidiary the National Equity Fund (NEF), in partnership with One Economy have launched **Access@home** in New York State. This is a five-year, \$1 billion initiative that will build affordable housing with high speed Internet connections and provide low cost computers and online content to residents. LISC and NEF are providing grants, below-market loans and equity investments to fund the development of affordable housing that specifically provides high-speed Internet access and related products and services to low-income families. One Economy Corporation will provide its technology expertise to these developments, LISC expects to expand the program to other areas in the future. For more information, call Michael Tang at 212-455-9369 or mtang@lisc.org.

TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

"Championing Financial Leadership" is the Sept. 9 Experts Online session at 2:00 pm ET. To learn more about this session, http://www.lisc.org/resources/2005/09/lead...others_8285output.asp.shtml or call 212 455-9800.

Generations United will hold its annual conference, "The Intergenerational Current: Across the Life Span and Around the Globe," Sept. 13-17 in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.gu.org or call Glenna Orr at 703 549-6379.

The University of Missouri Community Development Extension Program is offering two courses at its next **Community Development Academy, to be held September 18-23:** "Building Communities from the

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Grassroots" and "Creating Capacity for Dynamic Communities." For more information, call 573 882-8320 or go to www.ssu.missouri.edu/commdev/cda/cda.htm.

The "**Building for Greener Communities National Conference**" aims to bring a greener approach to the planning and management of communities. It will be held September 19-21 in Nebraska City, NE. For more information visit www.arborday.org/programs/conferences/greenercommunities/ or call 888-448-7337.

"**Double Bottom Line Investing: An Intro to the CDVC Approach**," is a workshop sponsored by the Community Development Venture Capital Alliance, Sept. 20 in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information, visit www.cdva.org or call 212 594-6747.

The International Economic Development Council's **Conference will be held September 25-28 in Chicago**. For more information, call 202 223-7800 or go to www.iedconline.org/AnnualConference/index.html.

Community Development Institute East will be held in Charleston, WV on September 25-30. Sponsored by the Extension Service at WV University and the WV Development Office, CDI East is a series of week-long education and training sessions focusing on community development. For more information, call 304-293-3323 or go to <http://www.ext.wvu.edu/cdi-east/>.

The National Association of Seed and Venture Funds (NASVF) and the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) are offering "**Seed Investing as a Team Sport**" and "**Swing for the Fences: Seed Investing for Entrepreneurs**" in Philadelphia on September 28. For more information, contact Julie Evans jevans@nasvf.org or 312 423-4545 or visit www.dcnsteam.com/nasvf/05confreg.nsf/Register.

"**It's Home Grown: Cultivating the Roots of Real Change**," a conference by the **Community Food Security Coalition** will be held in Atlanta on Oct. 6-9. The role of race and class in the food system is the theme of this year's conference. For more information, call 310-822-5410 or visit www.foodsecurity.org.

Send information on funding opportunities, events, publications, resources or rural related policy issues to: reporter@ruralamerica.org. Announcements will be published at our discretion based on space and applicability. To receive the Network Reporter by email contact us at: info@ruralamerica.org.



