

# Stand Up for Rural America - Rural Community Developers Network Reporter

Volume 7, Number 18 October 1, 2005

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Jim Upchurch's Katrina challenge raising funds for Southern Mutual Help Association (SMHA) is nearing its \$40,000 goal. Contributions to date exceed \$37,000. Hurricane Rita really hammered most of the rest of SMHA's service area. All told the Rita disaster area in Louisiana and Texas includes 18 rural counties where the damage is greatest and another 63 rural counties which were seriously affected. Check out the SMHA website at [www.southernmutualhelp.org](http://www.southernmutualhelp.org) and give if you can. Thank you.

## POLICY UPDATE

Your federal government is running on what's call a Continuing Resolution (CR) meaning that agencies are funded at the level from last fiscal year, 2005. Only now there is a new twist. This level of funding being made available is at last year's level unless the House or Senate appropriations bill contains less. If this is the case, the CR funding is at the reduced level. This provision has a significant impact on various social safety net programs. For more information, go to <http://appropriations.house.gov/> or <http://www.gop.gov/Committeecentral/bills/hjres68.asp>.

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITES

**The Bush Foundation Leadership Fellows Program seeks accomplished, motivated individuals** eager to prepare themselves for greater leadership responsibilities within their communities and professions. Applicants are invited to propose academic or self-designed learning experiences to help them attain goals that they set for themselves. The deadline is Oct. 14. For more information, visit <http://www.bushfoundation.org/programs/LeadershipFellowsProgram.htm>.

**The Appalachian Community Fund has grants available** to groups for community organizing and social change in the central Appalachian region. Visit [www.appalachiancommunityfund.org/](http://www.appalachiancommunityfund.org/) or call 865-523-5783 for more information. The deadline is Nov. 1.

**Home Depot and the National Gardening Association will award Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered, outdoor garden programs.** The focus is on social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning. The deadline is Nov. 30. More information is available at <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp> or call 800-538-7476.

**The Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation is now accepting applications for child care center enhancements.** Grants of up to \$4,000 will be awarded to child care programs to implement changes to improve the quality of care. The application deadline is Dec. 31. More information is available at <http://www.childcareabc.org> or call 610-992-1140, 877-493-6017.

**The Assistance for Displaced Entrepreneurs (ADE) initiative**, a program from alt.Consulting **will help hurricane-displaced entrepreneurs start new businesses** whatever their current location. Technical and managerial assistance is available along with loan funds and seed capital. Through this initiative, alt.Consulting will waive the fee to clients for the first 15 hours of assistance. Currently ADE is available in the Delta Region of Eastern and Southern Arkansas, Northern Mississippi, and Western Tennessee. For more information call the office in Pine Bluff, AR at (870) 267-1725 or in Memphis, TN at (901) 312-9797 or visit [www.altconsulting.org](http://www.altconsulting.org). If you are interested in mentoring, send email to [econjustice@altconsulting.org](mailto:econjustice@altconsulting.org).

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

**First Nations Oweesta Corporation and the National Community Capital Association will hold an introductory class on creating Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).** The class will be offered at the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Economic Development Conference (Fairbanks, AK October 17-22) and at National Community Capital's Conference (Los Angeles, CA October 19-22). To enroll, go to [www.nativefederation.org](http://www.nativefederation.org) for AFN and at [www.communitycapital.org](http://www.communitycapital.org) for National Community Capital's. For more information about the full Native Communities Financing Initiative contact Jacqueline Fox at 215 320-4313 or [jacquelinef@communitycapital.org](mailto:jacquelinef@communitycapital.org) or go to [www.communitycapital.org](http://www.communitycapital.org) and click on the link in the left column. Learn more about Oweesta at [www.oweesta.org](http://www.oweesta.org).

**The Food and Nutrition Research Small Grants Program Conference will be held October 27-28 at the Economic Research Service, Washington, DC.** The program seeks to stimulate new research that will inform the public debate on food assistance and nutrition policy. The conference is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/ConferenceMaterials/smallgrants2005form.htm> or email [fanrp@ers.usda.gov](mailto:fanrp@ers.usda.gov) or call Tina Terry at (202) 694-5270.

**The National Brownfields Conference will be Nov. 2-4 in Denver.** For more information, call 202-962-3563 or visit <http://www.brownfields2005.org/en/index.aspx>.

**Crank It Up! Community Methamphetamine Prevention Training will be held Nov. 16 - 17 in Topeka, KS.** Sponsored by Shawnee Regional Prevention and Recovery Services. Go to [www.parstopeka.com](http://www.parstopeka.com) or call 785-266-8666 for more information.

**The "New Partners for Smart Growth Conference" will be Jan. 26-28, 2006 in Denver.** The program will feature smart growth issues, the latest research, implementation tools and strategies, successful case studies, interactive learning experiences, and new policies. More information is available at <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/smartgrowth/about.html> or call Michele Kelso at 916-448-1198.

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## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

"Angel Investment Groups, Networks and Funds: A Guidebook to Developing the Right Angel Organization for Your Community," is a new publication by the Angel Capital Association and sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. To download, go to [www.kauffman.org](http://www.kauffman.org) and search for Angel Guidebook or call 816 932-1000 to request a copy.

The USDA's Economic Research Service has published a new issue of **Amber Waves**. The magazine covers the economics of agriculture, food and nutrition, the food industry, trade, rural America, and farm-related environmental topics. It contains a report on the benefits to rural areas from recreation and tourism development. See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/September05/> or call the ERS at 800-999-6779 to order.

The Points of Light Foundation has issued **Connecting Rural Communities: Volunteering and Neighboring**, a monograph on the nature and practice of volunteering

in rural America. It includes some of the effective strategies and solutions to address local needs and connect families to critical resources. Call 800-750-7653 or go to [http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/neighboring/resources/pdfs/ConnectingRuralCommunities.pdf?bcsi\\_scan\\_69B1CF94562E7761=0&bcsi\\_scan\\_filename=ConnectingRuralCommunities.pdf](http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/neighboring/resources/pdfs/ConnectingRuralCommunities.pdf?bcsi_scan_69B1CF94562E7761=0&bcsi_scan_filename=ConnectingRuralCommunities.pdf).

The Rural Poverty Research Center (RUPRI) working paper series offers "Why is US Poverty Higher in Nonmetropolitan than Metropolitan Areas?" Evidence from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics," at <http://www.rprconline.org/WorkingPapers/WP0504.pdf> or call (541) 737-1442.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have launched the **Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Cost Estimator Tool** that provides estimate of annual savings for Medicare recipients by joining a Medicare prescription drug plan. Visit [www.medicare.gov/medicarerreform/MPDP\\_Cost\\_Estimator.asp](http://www.medicare.gov/medicarerreform/MPDP_Cost_Estimator.asp).

Send information on funding opportunities, events, publications, resources or rural related policy issues to: [reporter@ruralamerica.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@ruralamerica.org).

