

NEWS RELEASE
September 13, 2005

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN,
SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
THE SUN

RE: Counties Helping Counties/Parishes in the Wake of Katrina

As we are all very aware, Hurricane Katrina could be the worst natural disaster to hit our country. Many gulf coast counties and parishes have been completely devastated by this event.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has established the Parish and County Family Fund to collect money to help our county and parish employees in the hardest hit states - Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Mason County is a member of NACo and we strongly encourage our elected officials, employees and citizens to donate generously to this fund to help our fellow citizens. Although they may be located miles away, we feel their devastation as if they were our neighbors and many have close family ties to the Northwest.

All money raised through the Parish and County Family Fund will be distributed by the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama state associations to the counties and parishes and their employees in need.

Under federal law, the donations are tax deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal Income Tax purposes. NACo will pay for all administrative costs related to managing this fund so your money will be spent to help those in need, not on administration costs. NACo will seek reports from the state associations to keep us up-to-date on how the money is being spent.

Here's how to contribute:

Mail a donation by check payable to Parish and County Family Fund, c/o NACo, 440 First Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001 or you can drop your check off at the Mason County Commissioners' office, 411 North 5th Street, Shelton, WA.

Or you can donate by phone by calling 1-202-661-8820 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EST.

We realize everyone is being inundated by donation requests. We urge our citizens to be cautious to be certain your money is donated to legitimate organizations.

Thank you for your contributions.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jayni L. Kamin
Chairperson

Lynda Ring Erickson
Commissioner

Tim Sheldon
Commissioner