

# New York Kiwanians Help Katrina Victims

*When the going gets tough – the tough New Yorkers get going. After reading about the suffering of our fellow Americans in the Gulf Coast area in the last ESK, New Yorks sprang into action. Governor Dave sent out the following update to Kiwanians.*

September 15, 2005

Dear New York District Kiwanians,

I am happy to report that on, Thursday, September 15, 2005, a 48 foot tractor trailer left from the Capital Division in Voorheesville, with donations from surrounding clubs and divisions, under the direction of DPLG Mike Malark and headed to Staten Island.

The truck was met by the Brooklyn and Metropolitan Division volunteers. Each Division acted as a collection point for several tons of non-perishable canned food, diapers, baby formula, personal hygiene items, paper goods, first aid kits, childrens clothes and most importantly several pallets water and drinks, donated by clubs throughout NYC.

After dozens of Kiwanians loaded this enormous tractor trailer, in what must be the most humid day this summer, Mike and the truck headed for Long Island. In the afternoon, the truck reached my office in Farmingdale where more volunteers filled the truck with more food, water and supplies from surrounding clubs and divisions. The truck went on to the last collection point in Suffolk West. Area

clubs made tremendous donations and the truck was filled to capacity.

The truck is now headed with the relief items to Mike Berner, a Kiwanian from the Ponchatoula, Louisiana Club. His 77 year old father is the incoming President. Between Mike B., his brother and dad, they have at least 105 years of Kiwanis experience. Their warehouse will store and distribute the much needed supplies to the Gulf Coast area.

Our Sponsored Youth have shown interest in helping in the relief effort and will be collecting canned foods for our next shipment. We will keep you posted on that information as it becomes available. Food is our priority and we will not be collecting used clothing, since we have been asked to stop sending clothes.

This Holiday Season, I would like to supply the Gulf Coast area children with Holiday Parties with all the trimming. We will be accepting monetary donations for this project. We will send more details shortly.

Today, as many other days, I am proud to be a Kiwanian. Take pride in all you have done, you have made a difference in many lives, one at a time. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time!

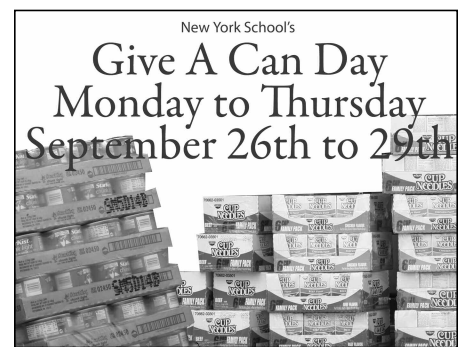
Yours in Kiwanis,  
David Rothman, Governor



**New York Kiwanians load a 48' Tractor with food and items for fellow Kiwanians in the Gulf area. The truck was filled to the top with much needed supplies.**



**Metropolitan Kiwanians think outside the box (in this case outside the truck) and PLG Mark Russo had large letters "NY Kiwanis Relief Fund" made and they were affixed on both sides of the truck for all to see. Great PR! Congrats Metropolitan.**



**New York District Sponsored Youth participated in the Give A Can Project. Their donations were added to the truck for distribution in the Gulf area.**

**Below is a newspaper article which ran in a local Gulf Coast Newspaper.**



*Photo submitted*

**RELIEF MISSION** — An 18-wheeler, loaded with relief supplies donated by members of New York Kiwanis Clubs, is unloaded in Hammond Saturday. A group of Kiwanis Club members stands behind members of the LSU Campus Crusade for Christ which helped unload the truck and box all the supplies. From left, kneeling, are Mike Malark of Voorheesville, N.Y., who spearheaded the

effort in his state, and Mike Berner of the Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club, who coordinated the project locally; standing, Hammond and Ponchatoula Kiwanians Judy and Vic Couvillion, Rusty Mayer, John Vaughn, C.O. "Corky" Henpeman, Anthony "Tony" Berner, John Thomas, Mark Mobley, Terry Brown, Jim Perrin and George Anthon.

## Helping Katrina victims

### New York Kiwanis clubs coordinate donations

By VIC COUVILLON  
Kiwanis Club member

Clothes, food, water, toys, infant, baby supplies and numerous and varied other items from New York state will soon be reaching victims of Hurricane Katrina in southeast Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast thanks to a joint effort of Kiwanis Clubs members separated by about 1,600 miles.

Members of the Hammond and Ponchatoula Kiwanis Clubs, augmented by Louisiana State University's chapter of the campus Crusade for Christ and some Ponchatoula High School Key Club members spent Saturday morning in a hot, steamy warehouse in Hammond unloading the trailer of an 18-wheeler rig jammed to absolute capacity with the supplies.

Michael W. "Mike" Malark of Voorheesville, N.Y., came up with the idea about 10 days before the big truck rolled into Hammond.

Malark, a member of the New Scotland (N.Y.) Kiwanis Club, said club leaders in the New York District of Kiwanis International had expressed interest in helping the victims of Katrina and decided to spearhead the project himself.

Despite widespread disruption of communication networks in Katrina's wake, Malark managed to contact Michael Berner, a veteran member and former president of the Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club. They began planning Malark's odyssey from New York to Louisiana. They chose the Ponchatoula-Hammond area as the delivery point because of the challenge of getting into the "ground zero" areas of Hurricane Katrina's path.

After conversations with Berner, Malark began contacting Kiwanis Clubs throughout New York and urging them to gather relief supplies. Clubs from Rochester and Albany to Long Island responded.

Malark then faced the challenges of securing a truck to haul the goods, getting insurance and assuring a fuel supply.

He contracted with Butch Cramer, an independent truck owner-operator from Voorheesville, to take the supplies to Louisiana. Going from one Kiwanis Club to another, Malark and Cramer managed to load the truck and finally headed south on Thursday.

They arrived in Ponchatoula early Saturday and went to a warehouse in Hammond where supplies were being gathered

prior to eventual distribution.

Seven members of the Hammond Kiwanis Club, seven members from the Ponchatoula club, colleagues from LSU and Key Club members helped box, label and place on pallets the big haul of supplies.

"We are Kiwanians, and I wouldn't be in Kiwanis if it wasn't be able to do things such as this," Malark said. "Kiwanis is all about helping people. This was just something that we felt had to be done. Many other Kiwanians in New York pitched in and helped solve problems related to the trip. We're just happy that we could help out in some way."

Berner saluted the New York Kiwanis members for the effort they put into this project.

"This was a real challenge ... to get all these supplies from New York to Louisiana under the prevailing conditions," Berner said. "Once again, members of Kiwanis Clubs have shown that through cooperation, great things can happen and the needs of people can be served."

Judy Couvillion, of the Hammond Kiwanis Club and lieutenant governor designate of Division 13 of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis

International, noted the division was slammed hard by Katrina.

"Five of our eight clubs may not even meet for several weeks or even months," she said. "It was comforting to know that fellow Kiwanians from as far away as New York cared enough about the people of the Gulf South to gather and deliver supplies for victims of the storm. The cooperation between all participating in this project was heart warming and rewarding."

She thanked the Campus Crusade for Christ volunteers who gave what she termed "tremendous" support to the effort.

Jim Perrin, Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club president, thanked Malark and the New York Kiwanians for their generosity and observed that this was just the latest example of Kiwanis members showing a willingness to help the less fortunate throughout the world. Berner played host to Malark and Cramer before they headed back to New York Monday.

They will go back with an empty truck, but it is expected that their hearts will be filled with the knowledge that they reached out, in the tradition of Kiwanis, to help fellow citizens left victims by a merciless storm.

## Lobell Family Update

The following updates come from Debbie Lobell to Linda Cooney about the Lobell family.

**October 19th** — I apologize for not letting you know sooner that both packages arrived and Christen opened them last Friday night. Needless to say, she is delighted with the flute and the clothes. (donated by Janet Calabrese and Trish Hook) She immediately put the flute together and began to toot on it. I don't know if she will be able to play it this school year because she has been assigned the flute to try for next term. I know that she will excel at whatever she puts her mind to.

Adam and Dodi have begun to shop for a fridge, washer, and dryer. They are so looking forward to moving into a house so they can all spread out and I can't say that I blame them.



**Christen Lobell is 11 years old. She was very excited about being able to learn to play a musical instrument this year. Her beloved trombone was lost in the storm. NY Kiwanian Trish Hook had her flute refurbished and sent it to Christen.**

I am happy to report that my mom is recovering very well from her scare a couple of weeks ago. She is learning to reduce her stress level in a lot of areas. Now for that stubborn man of hers!!! He is not doing so well, but has agreed to search for a place closer into town so that it will be easier for all of us to help them. This is a good thing!!

Well, Lonnie has just walked through the door coming in from work. I had better get his supper fixed.

Thank you so much for all you have done for our kids. — Debbie Lobell

P.S.: I heard from Mike Malark today. Maybe I will get to meet him this weekend. *Continued on Page 6*



**Janet Calabrese made sure Christen was outfitted in style for her first day at school. Christen loved her presents.**