



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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### Hurricane Choir Partners With Volunteers of America

International filmmaker Martin Meador's Hurricane Choir has partnered with Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge to receive net profits from revenues generated by the choir through performances, documentaries, CD's and other items. Through the distribution network of Volunteers of America, the funds will be distributed to hurricane ravaged areas of Louisiana. Jane Shank, President and CEO of Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge, knows the importance of this partnership. "There are similarities between the survivors of the recent hurricanes and the characters in Mr. Meador's movie **PARADISE ROAD**. The movie not only paid tribute to the human will to live, but was a testament to music's lasting power to heal and uplift", Ms. Shank said. "The mission of Volunteers of America is to reach and uplift people, and the *HURRICANE CHOIR* gives us an avenue to do just that. I so admire all the survivors we have worked with in the Louisiana Spirit crisis counseling program, as well as our staff who have ministered to their needs, and welcome this exciting opportunity."

The choir, a combination of over a thousand hurricane survivors and local residents, will sing on May 21, 2006 in an outdoor multi-media performance on the steps of the Louisiana State Capitol. Its second performance is scheduled for June 3 at the River Center in Baton Rouge.

Meador, Australian co-writer and co-executive producer of the Fox film, *Paradise Road*, starring Glenn Close and Academy Award winners Frances MacDormand and Cate Blanchett, is planning to make a documentary film on the Hurricane Choir. He is arriving in Baton Rouge on Sunday, March 12th to begin 12 weeks of rehearsals.

As choral director of the Hurricane Choir, Meador brings lively interaction to each rehearsal by making sure it is high energy and fun. "The initial vision for the choir was 1,000 voices," Meador said. "But as the response grows we now see the opportunity for thousands more people to sing with the Hurricane Choir. Can you imagine yourself singing your heart out with tens of thousands of singers in the Hurricane Choir?" Do you want to join the choir and are afraid you don't sing like a bird? All you need is the will to sing and have fun!

**The first rehearsal date is set for Thursday, March 16th for the entire choir at the Catholic Life Center (1800 South Acadian Thruway).** Following that, men will rehearse on Mondays and women on Tuesdays at 6:30PM. To join the Hurricane Choir, volunteer, make donations and get the latest information log on to [hurricanechoir.com](http://hurricanechoir.com). To become a corporate sponsor of the event, including signage rights, e-mail [daniellesings@gmail.com](mailto:daniellesings@gmail.com). For other information regarding the Hurricane Choir, contact Terry at (225) 927-0067.

Founded in 1896, Volunteers of America is a national, spiritually based organization providing local human service programs and opportunities for individual and community involvement. Carrying the motto of its founders, Volunteers of America promises to “go wherever we are needed and do whatever comes to hand.” Touching the lives of more than 1.8 million people last year, the organization has local affiliations serving the heart of Baton Rouge.

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