



December 20, 2005

Danielle Price
Golden Heart Productions L.L.C.
Hurricane Choir
5170 Parkin Ave.
Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

Dear Ms. Price,

It was a pleasure to meet with you last week. We are very excited about the opportunity to work with the Hurricane Choir in 2006. Volunteers of America considers this to be a real honor to have been asked to partner with the Hurricane Choir project and to help promote a Baton Rouge summer concert benefiting those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

For the last four months, Volunteers of America has offered aid to displaced staff and clients of Volunteers of America, Greater New Orleans, as well as other evacuees in need of our services and shelter. We know it is extremely important to provide assistance and any support we can to their efforts to rebuild, as the services provided by Volunteers of America are vital to any healthy community and New Orleans needs them now more than ever. In the days immediately preceding Hurricane Katrina, Volunteers of America was providing direct professional services to 12,000 clients in New Orleans, all of whom had to evacuate the city. The lack of available nearby shelter space for the massive numbers of evacuees exiting the city resulted in the majority relocating at least temporarily in out of state locations. The most vulnerable populations served by Volunteers of America encountered even greater problems. Many evacuated with staff while others had family members who were able to assume that responsibility. Many others simply left the area in the same manner as so many other displaced persons...arriving at shelters and other safe havens without prior planning or plans for the future. Of the 12,000 clients at the time of Katrina, 2,120 were living in housing sponsored by our agency; this includes low income seniors, people with disabilities, homeless veterans and other homeless adults and families. While we continue to assist large numbers of these populations, there are some 1,000 whose whereabouts are simply unknown.

Costs related to the hurricane reflect the additional families in our family shelter, an average of 40 new people each day at the Drop-In Center, 7 new families at Balis, 32 people in 8 apartments at Oak Park, and additional cots and beds all over the extra floor space in the common areas. These have all been people with extremely serious needs; they are not the average evacuee. Examples include a foster family with 2 babies with AIDS, a large contingency of mentally retarded adults, elderly residents from two New Orleans projects, and clients from a halfway house for substance abusers in New Orleans. All occupied space for which we would normally be reimbursed.

Volunteers of America has been recognized nationally for our ability to meet the needs of our country's most vulnerable residents in a responsible and cost-effective manner. We have earned the highest rating possible from **Charity Navigator**, America's largest independent evaluator of charities. *SmartMoney* ranked us among the nation's leading service organizations and *Worth* magazine placed us on its "Worth 100" list of charities that spend your money wisely.

We have a good network of supporters and believe we have the ability to provide the Hurricane Choir with valuable support for publicity of the project. We have programs that offer direct assistance for hurricane victims that may be interested in participating in the choir as well as a good volunteer/donor base that may be interested in volunteering at or attending the Baton Rouge performance of the choir!

We look forward to opportunity to work with the Hurricane Choir in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Monique Marino
Director of Development and Community Resources