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Collection/Office of Origin:	Frieden, Lex, Collection
Series:	Related Materials
Subseries:	Speeches

OA/ID Number:	52090
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Hurricane Speech [2008]

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THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

7000 Fannin Street, Suite 1200
Houston, Texas 77030
www.uthouston.edu

713 500 3200
713 500 3052 fax

November 17, 2008

Ms. Blayne Frieden
2510 E. 45th Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105

Dear Ms. Frieden,

Please accept our sincere thanks to you for the generous gift of \$1,000 to The University of Texas School of Health Information Sciences which will be applied towards the Disability Emergency Assistance Project.

This important donation will assist people with the most severe disabilities who "sheltered in place" during Hurricane Ike as well as those who were evacuated and are now in the process of trying to return home or relocate. Your generosity will aid approximately 30,000 young and old people with disabilities in the Houston/Harris county area and adjacent counties who need to be contacted and who may need follow-up assistance.

On behalf of University President Larry R. Kaiser, M.D., our faculty, and staff, we are grateful that you have chosen to become our philanthropic partner. In doing so, you join us in our quest to provide the very best and compassionate care for our patients, and to conquer the most serious diseases of our time, in our time.

We deeply appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,

Betsy C. Frantz, MPH
Assistant Vice President for Fundraising and
Advancement Programs

BCF:ew

cc: Jack W. Smith, M.D., Ph.D.
Lex Frieden, M.A., LL.D.

*Lex is such an
asset to our programs.
Thank you for
this important gift.*



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November 17, 2008

Dr. Rebecca Clearman
Personal Physician Group, LLP
5868 A-1 Westheimer, Suite 456
Houston, Texas 77057

Dear Dr. Clearman,

Please accept our sincere thanks to you and the Personal Physician Group, LLP for the generous gift of \$2,500 to The University of Texas School of Health Information Sciences which will be applied towards the Disability Emergency Assistance Project in honor of Frank A. Liddell, Jr.

This important donation will assist people with the most severe disabilities who "sheltered in place" during Hurricane Ike as well as those who were evacuated and are now in the process of trying to return home or relocate. Your generosity will aid approximately 30,000 young and old people with disabilities in the Houston/Harris county area and adjacent counties who need to be contacted and who may need follow-up assistance.

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Sincerely,

Betsy C. Frantz, MPH
Assistant Vice President for Fundraising and
Advancement Programs

*a wonderful
person to know,
and a very worthy
cause. Thank you.*

BCF:ew

cc: Jack W. Smith, M.D., Ph.D.
Lex Frieden, M.A., LL.D.



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7000 Fannin Street, Suite 1200
Houston, Texas 77030
www.utrhouston.edu

713 500 3200
713 500 3052 fax

November 17, 2008

Mrs. Cynthia Adkins
Executive Director
TIRR Foundation
4605 Post Oak Place Drive, Suite 222
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mrs. Adkins,

Please accept our sincere thanks to you and the TIRR Foundation for the generous gift of \$10,000 to The University of Texas School of Health Information Sciences which will be applied towards the Disability Emergency Assistance Project.

This important donation will assist people with the most severe disabilities who "sheltered in place" during Hurricane Ike as well as those who were evacuated and are now in the process of trying to return home or relocate. Your generosity will aid approximately 30,000 young and old people with disabilities in the Houston/Harris county area and adjacent counties who need to be contacted and who may need follow-up assistance.

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We deeply appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,

Betsy
Betsy C. Frantz, MPH
Assistant Vice President for Fundraising and
Advancement Programs

BCF:ew

cc: Jack W. Smith, M.D., Ph.D.
Lex Frieden, M.A., LL.D.

*Cynthia —
Wow! Really
appreciate TIRR
Foundation's
support, as always.
B*



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

Larry R. Kaiser, MD, FACS
President
Alkek-Williams Distinguished Professor

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT 713 500 3010
7000 Fannin Street, 17th Floor 713 500 3059 fax
Houston, Texas 77030
Larry.Kaiser@uth.tmc.edu

November 11, 2008

Mr. Stephen D. Maislin
Greater Houston Community Foundation
4550 Post Oak Place Drive Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77027

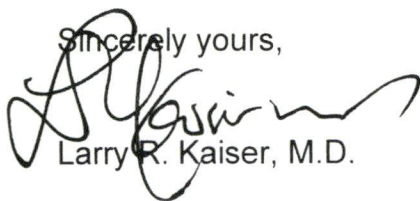
Dear Mr. Maislin:

Please accept my sincere thanks to you and the Greater Houston Community Foundation for the generous gift of \$191,761 to The University of Texas School of Health Information Sciences which will be applied toward the Disability Emergency Assistance Project.

This important donation will assist people with the most severe disabilities who "sheltered in place" during Hurricane Ike as well as those who were evacuated and are now in the process of trying to return home or relocate. Your generosity will aid approximately 30,000 young and old people with disabilities in the Houston/Harris county area and adjacent counties who need to be contacted and who may need follow-up assistance.

Thank you for partnering with us as we strive to model the best practices in clinical care and public health. I am grateful for your support as we endeavor to change and better the quality of life for those in our community.

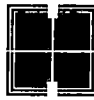
Sincerely yours,



Larry R. Kaiser, M.D.

LRK:ew

cc: Jack W. Smith, M.D., Ph.D.
Lex Frieden, M.A., LL.D.



GREATER HOUSTON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Smart giving. Better results.

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Stephen D. Maislin

October 14, 2008

Professor Lex Frieden

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

7000 Fannin St., Suite 600

Houston, TX 77030

Dear Professor Frieden:

The Gulf Coast Ike Relief Fund Advisory Board has recommended to the Board of Directors of the Greater Houston Community Foundation a grant in the amount of \$191,761.00 to The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to assist in providing relief for victims of Hurricane Ike. A check in payment of that grant is enclosed.

Also enclosed are two copies of the Grant Contract. Please return one copy of the completed and signed contract in the enclosed envelope.

Interim reports on the use of the funds granted are due three months from the date of this letter and every three months thereafter until all funds have been expended. A form is enclosed for your use in reporting to the Advisory Board.

Thanks to you and your staff for your services on behalf of those impacted by Hurricane Ike.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Maislin
President

Grant Contract

The Greater Houston Community Foundation Board of Directors requires that this grant contract be completed, signed and returned to our office upon receipt of a grant from the Gulf Coast Ike Relief Fund. By signing this contract, the Grantee agrees to 1) use the funds provided as specified below to assist those impacted by Hurricane Ike in this area, 2) report to the Gulf Coast Ike Relief Fund Advisory Board on the use of the funds as specified in the grant transmittal letter, and 3) return any funds not used for these purposes to the Greater Houston Community Foundation. Please complete the form and mail to the address above, fax to 713.333.2220 or email to GulfCoastIkeReliefFund@ghcf.org.

Grantee Name: _____

Grantee Mailing Address:

Grantee Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Executive Director: _____ Email: _____

Web Site (if applicable):

EIN: _____

Description of services to be provided:

Signed on behalf of Grantee:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____ Direct Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

should be
handled by
central
office



GREATER HOUSTON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Oct. 14, 2008

Prof. Funder -

In your reporting, please provide an accounting of those served by county, as the Gulf Coast Ike Relief Fund has been set up to help those in the six designated counties.

Also, please coordinate your outreach efforts with the United Way, as their Help Line may be useful in letting others know of this valuable service.

Thanks

Linda Gardner

Gulf Coast Ike Relief Fund

____ Interim Report

____ Final Report

Period covered by report: _____

Name of organization:	
Street/mailling address:	
Telephone number: Fax: Email:	
Submitted by:	

Date of grant: _____

Amount of grant: _____

Grant funds expended as of this report: _____

County or counties served: _____

Return completed report three months after date of grant and every three months thereafter, until all grant funds are expended, to:

Gulf Coast Ike Relief Fund Advisory Board
Attention: Linda Gardner
4550 Post Oak Place, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77027

Or by e-mail to GulfCoastIkeReliefFund@ghcf.org

Or by fax to 713-333-2200

**GULF COAST IKE RELIEF FUND
GRANT REPORT SUMMARY**

Purpose of grant request	
How many persons/families in each county were served with these funds?	
How were funds spent? Please be specific: contract labor, equipment rental or purchases, overtime, etc.	
Other information	

SHIS

**Topic for discussion for the next FGO Meeting
July 17, 2008**

- **Conflict of Interest and Outside Activities**

-Randy Scott

Lee-Chamel -11 281 909 7531 Cell#

Cell

members thank you removed name
important subject

211 19000

N/A transport 14,000 26,000

coordination estimate alter in place

around gone
flooding

3rd party
local

Red Cross
volunteers

electricity

adequately address the needs of people with disabilities, then the actions resulting from them will fall short as well.

I appreciate the Members' concerns about these matters. My colleagues and I would be happy to work with the subcommittee and responsible officials to assure adequate and appropriate plans are in place to meet the needs of Texans with disabilities, in the event of disaster.



Transportation Registration

This letter is to re-confirm our conversation on _____. It is agreed that Coach America will provide emergency transportation for the above facility.

Coach America has registered you for _____ 55 passenger motor coach (es) to transfer residents to and from your pre designated location. Services will be provided subject to availability of motor coaches and drivers. It is further understood that Coach America's charges for this service are \$2000.00 per calendar day or \$4.00 per mile, whichever is greater.

Terms and Conditions

The total charge is based on preliminary information that was provided by you, any revisions from the original times locations etc. could result in additional charges. It is also understood that all services must be guaranteed by a Corporate Charge Card prior to service and charges will be processed on the same card.

Coach America will assume no responsibility for personal items or equipment left unattended at any time on the motor coach either in luggage or passenger compartments.

In the event that you cancel this service, within 48 hours of requested service you will be charged for the first 24 hour minimum charge.

Coach America holds _____ liable for any damage (i.e. soiled seats, broken windows, hazard waste removal.) Coach America will require a minimum of four (4) chaperones per motor coach. All passengers must be ambulatory requiring limited personal assistance.

Coach America requires under this registration that your establishment must provide notification of intent to evacuate a minimum of 96 hours prior to the estimated Landfall. Upon notification Coach America will advise of the time that we will provide transportation which would begin within 24 hours and no later than 72 hours prior to landfall. (Landfall times would be established by N.O.A.A./ N.W.S.) Further, Coach America would require 72 hours to return group to facility after an all clear.

We have included a copy of The Department of Transportations guidelines on handling of Oxygen on Motor Coaches and require that any passengers that require oxygen can be safely transported under these guidelines.

I have read and accept the above terms and conditions concerning, notification, payment and the D.O.T. guidelines for safe oxygen handling and chaperone requirements.

Written Testimony by Lex Frieden to the
Texas Senate Subcommittee on Flooding and Evacuations
August 13, 2008

Introduction:

Members of the Texas Senate Subcommittee on Flooding and Evacuations, it is my pleasure to submit testimony to your committee today. I hope that it will shed some light on several issues related to the emergency evacuation of people with disabilities.

My name is Lex Frieden and I am Senior Vice President at TIRR Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas. I am also professor of health informatics and of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. I am the founder and director of Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU), a program of TIRR. The ILRU program is a national center for information, training, research, and technical assistance in independent living. Independent living encompasses the rights for self-determination, self-respect, and equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

The views which I express today are my own and do not necessarily represent any organizations or institutions with which I am affiliated. However, I believe my colleagues would agree completely with the all of the points I will share with you.

In September, 2005, ILRU led efforts by a coalition of disability groups around the country providing support and assistance to people with disabilities along the Gulf Coast of the United States who were affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. During the course of 12 months subsequent to landfall of Hurricane Katrina, ILRU staff responded to more than 3,000 telephone calls and emails for help from people with disabilities in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Texas who were displaced by the hurricanes. ILRU provided consultation to the Federal Disaster Recovery Coordination Committee and FEMA during the early stages of recovery efforts and to Red Cross Disaster Recovery officials and the White House Office of Domestic Policy during the recovery period immediately following the hurricanes.

ILRU continues to participate in local city and county emergency planning efforts to represent the needs of people with disabilities. Based on these experiences, I would like to discuss the following issues:

1. 2-1-1 phone system:

There is some confusion about the role of the United Way 2-1-1 telephone system in Texas for disaster planning. Currently, people with disabilities who may not be able to evacuate themselves safely in an emergency are encouraged to register with 2-1-1. Theoretically, registration would assist local officials in identifying and locating people with special needs who may need assistance evacuating. Some people are being told that they must register to guarantee evacuation while others are being told that registration

does not guarantee anything. People with disabilities are reluctant to identify themselves to a system they do not believe is going to ultimately serve them.

I believe there needs to be a consistent message that clearly states the role of the 2-1-1 system. Officials should not and can not guarantee evacuations for registrants under all circumstances, but there must be a clear consistent message that encourages people with disabilities to register.

2. Transport of Nursing Home and Assisted-Living Home Residents:

During Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many families left behind loved ones in nursing homes and assisted living facilities as they evacuated with the expectation that these entities were adequately prepared and able to move their residents when necessary.

Nursing homes in Texas are required to have an evacuation plan for their residents. Many nursing homes have agreements with the company, Coach USA, to supply buses for the evacuation efforts. Having the opportunity to review some of the agreements, I am disturbed to find that Coach USA included a clause indicating they are not responsible for providing boarding assistance to people who need it in evacuating. This clause is troubling because the super-majority of residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities need some type of assistance. Further, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires bus companies to assist people in boarding and disembarking their buses.

An example of the problems with coordination of transportation for evacuation of people with special needs in times of disasters occurred prior to the landfall of Hurricane Rita. A nursing home in La Porte, Texas had contracted with Coach USA to assist and evacuate its residents in emergencies. Seeing several buses parked and waiting nearby, the nursing home administrator thought the buses were prepared to transport her residents. Upon approaching the buses to direct them to the nursing home, the nursing home administrator was told by a bus driver that the buses could not be used to transport her residents because government (not clear whether they were state or local) officials had commandeered their buses and had them waiting on-call for the possible duty of evacuating citizens. Interestingly, when the nursing home official presented the driver with a cash payment, the bus driver proceeded to drive to the nursing home in order to transport the residents to safety.

I am concerned about the role of private transportation companies in disaster planning and the issues I discussed should be studied. I am especially concerned about what should happen when a company with private contractual responsibilities to evacuate is conflicted by government efforts to evacuate.

3. Coordination between city, county, state, and federal emergency planning:

I fear that there has been a lack of coordination between the various governmental jurisdictions which are responsible for planning and preparing for emergencies. I believe that city, county, and state officials responsible for emergency preparedness and response

should work together more closely to assure seamless operations and to minimize conflicts which may naturally occur between various levels of government. Planning for emergency evacuation and response requires high knowledge level, efficient acquisition of new knowledge, and is an incredibly complex endeavor. The lack of awareness of what other people are doing and the communication gap at the local level hampers the state's overall disaster preparedness. As Katrina memorably demonstrated, local, state, and federal officials were not always on the same page, and to a lesser degree, this may still be the case today.

4. Adequacy of resources to serve people with special needs in rural counties:

The nation's non-metropolitan areas are home to a higher percentage of people with disabilities than more densely populated areas and this includes the rural counties of Texas. I am concerned about the adequacy of specialized resources and services available in these counties for people with special needs. The availability of hospitals and health care providers is limited; there are some areas where the only health care provider is the school nurse. During the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, rural residents with special health care needs either had to be relocated to more urban counties for treatment or did not receive any treatment at all.

5. Relying on third parties:

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated that the Red Cross was not adequately prepared to serve displaced residents with special needs. Even though the Americans with Disabilities Act mandates that the Red Cross offer its services to everyone without regard to their disability status, the Red Cross was not properly trained, equipped, and prepared to shelter people with special needs. Recognizing the gap, cities like Houston had to open special needs shelters to address the demand.

During Hurricane Rita, the Beaumont area prided itself in "caring for their own." Volunteer citizens groups went from house to house assisting people who were unable to evacuate themselves. While the efforts of volunteers in Beaumont and in other cities are commendable, relying on volunteers is not reliable and does not relieve the duty of the government to independently plan and evacuate those who can not self-evacuate due to a disability. Government officials should always plan and prepare for the contingency that third parties are not adequately serving people with disabilities.

Conclusion:

Since hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Texas has taken a number of steps to improve policies and plans related to evacuation of its citizens from areas at risks during times of disaster. Cities like Houston and San Antonio have made great strides in their disaster preparedness and response plans. Many of the plans which have been made and steps to implement them have included consideration of the special needs of people with disabilities. Nonetheless, there remain major gaps in planning. Obviously, if plans do not

adequately address the needs of people with disabilities, then the actions resulting from them will fall short as well.

I appreciate the Members' concerns about these matters. My colleagues and I would be happy to work with the subcommittee and responsible officials to assure adequate and appropriate plans are in place to meet the needs of Texans with disabilities, in the event of disaster.

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