



**American
Red Cross**

Hurricane Recovery Program

For Immediate Release
Mississippi
Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities
Jackson, MS

Contact
Mary Troupe
Executive Director
(601) 9696-0601

News Release NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANTS AWARDED TO MISSISSIPPI COALITION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

*The American Red Cross Hurricane Recovery Program awards grants to support
community emotional wellness and resilience activities*

The Foundation for the Mid South in partnership with the American Red Cross (ARC) Hurricane Recovery Program announces the recipients of grants from the *Building Community Resilience* program. The program is designed to support local organizations providing community-based emotional wellness and resilience activities for those directly affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

The recipients of this grant will identify and implement psychosocial activities that are tailored for the specific needs of the local community. Those activities include: skill building and knowledge transfer; structured community events and meetings; identification and referral to formal mental health treatment; and psychological education surrounding post-disaster effects.

“Beyond the visible, physical destruction caused by the hurricanes, they also took a tremendous toll on the lives and mental health of our citizens,” said Necole S. Irvin, program officer at the Foundation for the Mid South.

“We were pleased to partner with the American Red Cross Hurricane Recovery Program to offer support to Mississippi programs that provide the services, activities, and support to address the emotional needs of those directly affected by the storms.”

The *Building Community Resilience* program is the second of two rounds of grants supported by the Red Cross Hurricane Recovery Program. The Foundation for the Mid South previously made \$1.2 million in grants to organizations in Mississippi so that hurricane-affected youth—ages 3-16—could attend summer camps.

The Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities project under this grant is **KIDS of KATRINA**. The project will start a program for with children and youth with disabilities who experienced Katrina and have had no means of expressing their fear or concerns. KIDS of Katrina will offer these children and young people with disabilities ways to express their feeling through different medium of arts.

If you would like more information on Kids of Katrina or know someone who would like to attend, please contact Jason Lee, Project Assistant at (1-800-721-7255 or jlee@mscoalition.com)