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Dear Caregivers,

We know many of you evacuated with your loved ones, and we know how stressful this time is for you. Most of our subscribers will not be able to read this newsletter, but we thought it worthwhile even if one or two might receive it and share the information with other. If you have any specific needs, please reply to this post and you could share the information with others. If you have any specific needs please reply to this post or you may call my office directly as my answering machine appears to be miraculously working (601-266-5969). We are hoping a few of you will get it and will share this information with others.

If you have specific helpful information to share, please let us know and we will post it. Stella

Red Cross Assistance

Here is a specific address for e-mailing the Red Cross and links to make a donation <http://www.emergencyemail.org/katrinareliefl.asp>

Locating Hospice Patients

Hospice Foundation of America (HFA) on Tuesday announced that it has established an Internet-based bulletin board to help reconnect families to hospice patients in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"Since the flooding began in the Gulf region, we have received numerous calls from families and friends of hospice patients who cannot locate their loved ones," said Jack Gordon, HFA chairman. "They are obviously distressed."

Family members will be able to post messages on the site, accessible at www.hospicefoundation.org, and hospice employees and others with knowledge of transfer arrangements will be able to contact those who have posted messages.

Hospice care is delivered in a variety of places, including homes, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, inpatient and residential hospices.

Based in Miami and Washington, D.C., HFA exists to help those who cope personally or professionally with terminal illness, loss, and the process of grief and bereavement.

For more information contact: Kate Viggiano, HFA program specialist, 202-638-5419, or kviggiano@hospicefoundation.org.

Hurricane Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Websites

ILRU now has a Web page and message board at www.ilru.org (top of page) to assist hurricane survivors with disabilities. ILRU has been working with a network of organizations and emergency relief specialists to get resources in place ASAP. Their message board can be used to post resources that you have to offer, i.e. accessible housing, medical supplies, disability equipment, etc., OR, if you need these items, you can post there and search there.

New website information has been developed by uniquelygifted to assist persons with autism and others with unique needs. This site has numerous links, phone numbers and suggestions. For more info go to www.uniquelygifted.org.

Also www.thearcink.org has posted a link that allows employers, persons with disabilities or their family, and persons with resources to post information. Go to their website to offer assistance or post a request.

Resources for Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer Disease

Two national organizations, the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) are encouraging caregivers to call toll-free numbers for advice about how to deal with the aftermath of the hurricane, especially if they are in need of assistance and cannot reach local help.

The Alzheimer's Association Helpline is available 24/7 at 1-800-272-3900 to help people with dementia, their families, caregivers and aid workers impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The Association's Helpline is a confidential service, staffed by master's level clinicians who provide callers with information about understanding dementia, caregiving information, referrals to local resources and crisis assistance in more than 140 languages.

A national non-profit based in New York, AFA's toll-free hotline number is 866-AFA-8484 (866-232-8484), and it is staffed by certified social workers. AFA can provide counseling on psychological and practical issues and assist displaced families in finding nursing homes or Alzheimer's-related facilities for their loved ones in other areas. For more information and to locate a local AFA member, visit <http://www.alzfdn.org> or call 866-AFA-8484.

According to Eric J. Hall, AFA's chief executive officer, individuals with Alzheimer's disease may become more agitated and confused under these circumstances. "Patience and reassurance go a long way under these tragic conditions," Hall said. To cope with this, Hall suggested that families try to steer their loved ones away from broadcasts about the hurricane, implement a structured routine, and redirect them to positive-oriented activities such as reminiscing, listening to music, folding laundry and doing art projects.

Project ShareCare, funded by the Area Agency on Aging, provides training, counseling and support groups for family caregivers in Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Perry and Jones counties.

Project ShareCare is sponsored by the Institute for Disability Studies (IDS), Mississippi's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). IDS provides university training, community service activities, research, and information that promote the independence, productivity, and community inclusion of individuals with disabilities and their families. For more information about IDS, visit the Institute's Web site at www.ids.usm.edu or call 1-888-671-0051 (TTY). To make a tax-deductible gift to IDS for this and other projects, visit <http://www.ids.usm.edu/supportus.asp>.

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