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## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **MISSISSIPPI HURRICANE RECOVERY FUND AWARDS OVER \$1.4 MILLION IN GRANTS TO LOCAL NON PROFITS**

## **MHRF AWARDS OVER \$6 MILLION SINCE HURRICANE KATRINA**

(Gulfport, Mississippi) - Gulf Coast Community Foundation is pleased to announce the award of grants to three local non profit organizations. A check presentation ceremony will be held April 2, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. at The Gulf Coast Center for Non Profits, 11975 Seaway Road, Gulfport, MS at the offices of Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

Habitat for Humanity Bay-Waveland Area, Inc. was awarded a grant in the amount of \$455,832 to purchase lots and construct 10 homes in Hancock County where the eye of Hurricane Katrina came ashore. "We are so grateful to be partnering with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation to help rebuild Hancock County," said Wendy McDonald, Executive Director for Habitat Bay-Waveland Area, Inc. "We are particularly appreciative of the commitment of the Foundation for the support of the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. With the support of the Foundation, we anticipate rebuilding the communities and neighborhoods in Hancock County," added McDonald.

Habitat for Humanity of the Gulf Coast was awarded \$500,000 for the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project to be held May 11-19, 2008. This grant from the Foundation will provide construction sponsorship as a GOLD Partner for the week long building project. Volunteers from around the world will come to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to unite in a construction blitz in the three coastal counties to build over 100 homes. "This is a much bigger project than we ever imagined", said Rodger Wilder, President of the Foundation, "and we are so excited to be a part of getting so many homes built in such a short period of time. Some of our staff and members of our board will be participating in building these houses," Wilder added. Chris Monforton, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of the Gulf Coast said, "We are extremely appreciative and grateful for the partnership and grant funds from the Foundation. This grant will assist Habitat in getting families into affordable homes during the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project. We look forward to continued work projects and collaboration with the Community Foundation."

Lagniappe Presbyterian Church, Inc. was awarded \$488,746 to construct modular transitional housing for families while their houses are being built. The transitional housing will also be available to families who were renters at the time of the storm as Lagniappe helps them develop life skills required for home ownership. Lagniappe serves the Bay-Waveland area repairing and rebuilding storm damaged homes. Jean Larroux, Senior Pastor and Director, added "Lagniappe Church is excited about their partnership with the Foundation and the possibilities that this grant opens for transitional houses and the transformation of lives in Hancock County."

Gulf Coast Community Foundation is proud to have been selected by the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund to administer the money for the projects of the Fund; The Foundation has developed relationships with many faith-based organizations, long term recovery and other recovery volunteer groups the Fund supports. The money from the Fund is used for building materials to repair and rebuild homes damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

### **About the Gulf Coast Community Foundation**

*The Gulf Coast Community Foundation is a non profit public charity that has been serving the people of South Mississippi since 1989. The Foundation's primary mission is to increase philanthropy by making grants to worthy causes, providing donor services and promotion and providing leadership in response to the community's changing needs. The Foundation meets this mission by developing and managing a comprehensive base of funds, totaling almost \$50 million dollars. These funds represent an expanding pool of charitable dollars, committed to meeting the needs of the people of South Mississippi. If you are interested in supporting your local community through the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, you can make a donation by calling (228) 897-4841 or by sending donations to GCCF, P.O. Box 2984, Gulfport, MS 39505.*

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