

Hundreds of Katrina Evacuees Gather at Convention Center



Website

Local Relief Agencies on Site Again Tuesday; Evacuee Families Urged to Access "One Stop" Services

CLEVELAND, Sept. 12 /PRNewswire/ -- Hundreds of evacuees visited the Cleveland Convention Center Monday to access a "one stop shop" of American Red Cross, City, County and Federal service representatives.

Cleveland Assistant Fire Chief Timothy O'Toole stated, "We strongly encourage families who have evacuated to Cleveland from the Gulf States following Hurricane Katrina to access the service and relief agencies on site at the Convention Center tomorrow. We will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is the best, most efficient and time-effective way for evacuees to meet with every agency in one setting."

Many of the visitors were part of the 152 cases begun by the Red Cross Greater Cleveland Chapter over the past two weeks since Hurricane Katrina hit. A case is averaging approximately 3 individuals, said Red Cross Disaster Relief Operations Director Deborah Chitester. In addition, approximately 34 new Red Cross cases had been started on Monday by 3 p.m.

Other representatives on site include the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Veterans Administration Services, Health Departments from both the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Municipal School District, United Way Services, Legal Aid, MetroHealth, RTA and countless others.

Evacuees can access a variety of services including registration for food stamps, Medicaid, long-term housing, medical and dental assessments, vision care, and information on immunizations and tetanus shots.

SOURCE American Red Cross

Web Site: <http://www.redcross-cleveland.org>

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