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September 21, 2005

## **USSAAC Announces Gulf State Hurricane Relief Plan for People with Communication Difficulties**

The United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC) is assisting individuals who rely on augmentative communication techniques, strategies and technologies (AAC), their families and the professionals who serve them who have been impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

USSAAC is working to insure that all individuals who can benefit from AAC (as well as the professionals, agencies, rehabilitation centers, hospitals and organizations who serve them) gain access to needed AAC equipment (devices, communication displays, batteries, *etc.*), AAC materials (manuals, books, software, *etc.*) and related AAC supports and services (evaluation, therapy, funding).

USSAAC is currently accepting donations of money, equipment, materials, services and supports through its website. We are also helping AAC professionals who have lost their jobs due to Katrina and Rita to find employment. After one week USSAAC has collected almost \$1000, donations of equipment and services and has been able to respond to all requests for assistance within a few days.

USSAAC is working with AAC manufacturers, disability organizations and professionals to meet the immediate and longer-term communication needs of people affected by Katrina and Rita.

If you (or someone you know) were affected by the hurricane and require AAC assistance, please go to the USSAAC Website ([www.ussaac.org/katrina](http://www.ussaac.org/katrina)) and specify your needs for equipment, materials, services and/or employment. You may also fax any request to 831-646-5428 or call 877-8USSAAC (877-887-7222) (toll-free) or contact Meher Banajee, Coordinator, USSAAC Katrina Relief Plan by email: [mbanaj1@lsu.edu](mailto:mbanaj1@lsu.edu)

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