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NEWS RELEASE

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Event: Hurricane Katrina
Advisory 54

Heart to Heart International Kansas Team One of First to Respond

When day four arrived after Katrina struck Jefferson Parish, food and provisions became alarmingly low for over 150 personnel who had stayed behind to help with the task of saving lives, feeding evacuees and manning the Jefferson Parish Emergency Operating Center. After repeated attempts to contact FEMA for assistance, it was realized that the crew had to fend for themselves.

A WWL-radio representative who decided to ride out the storm at the Jefferson Parish Emergency Operating Center located at 1887 Ames Boulevard in Marrero, suggested a call to an out-of-state group that provides food, personal care items and medical needs for emergency workers. Immediately, the call was made.

Unbeknownst to the emergency workers at the Jefferson Parish EOC, **Heart to Heart International** in Olathe, Kansas had already begun gathering supplies to send to the disaster area. Once contact was made with Jefferson Parish, **Heart to Heart** had their destination and were there within 48 hours with provisions and to assess additional needs.

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Add 1
Heart to Heart
xxx additional needs.

After spending a few days at the Jefferson Parish EOC, **Heart to Heart International** representatives left the area and returned to Olathe to gather additional supplies and volunteers. They arrived in Jefferson Parish, again, with more provisions, a “mini clinic” and a commitment to stay for two months.

Heart to Heart is a nonprofit organization that has worked with medical relief aid and drug company donations internationally for over 10 years. The Hurricane Katrina aftermath is the first domestic disaster to which the organization has responded.

The **Heart to Heart** clinic is temporarily located at Fire Station 88 across from the Jefferson Parish EOC at the corner of Belle Terre Road and Ames Boulevard. The nurses and doctors that staff this clinic are volunteer licensed professionals from various states. Their goal is to serve the Jefferson Parish Employees with quality and compassion and establish a health care system for the 3,000 Jefferson Parish employees.

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