

Monday, September 12, 2005

Former Opelousas resident reaches out

By Lena Anderson

landerson@dailyworld.com

Former Opelousas resident and Main Street Director Carola Hartley, along with residents of her new community of Nicholasville, Ky., have opened their hearts, wallets and closets to send truckloads of supplies and money to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Hartley, executive director of Main Street in Nicholasville, organized the relief drive and is working with other Main Street directors around the country to keep the effort alive.

Working in cooperation with St. Landry Parish President Don Menard, her group has collected nearly \$20,000 in addition to the supplies.

They already have sent four truckloads to the parish's relief center of drinking water, diapers, baby wipes, clothes, baby formula and other supplies. The drivers, all from Kentucky, are making turn-around trips to keep the supplies coming. Hammond Transportation of Nicholasville is supplying the trucks.

The donated money will be used to purchase more goods for displaced people in St. Landry Parish, as well as to help outfit a room for a kidney dialysis unit being constructed in the relief center.

A Nicholasville drapery plant donated six bolts of quilting fabric, 1,000 yards of hospital woven curtain material (used for privacy in hospitals) and 85 bedspreads, which can be used as blankets.

Mary Queen of the Rosary Catholic School in Lexington, Ky., gave about 450 school desks.

In addition to supplies and money, Kentucky also is sending much-needed manpower. A team of volunteers is coming down beginning Sunday to help with sorting and issuing supplies to the needy.

"It is becoming a big project with all of the responses from other Main Street projects sending supplies," Hartley said. "There are over 500 Main Street communities across the United States."

Originally published September 12, 2005