

*Ukiah Valley  
Medical Center*



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**Ukiah Valley Medical Center Responds  
To Hurricane Katrina Catastrophe**

Ukiah Valley Medical Center employees and administration rallied together to provide emergency funding to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast.

Hospital employees have raised more \$2,680.00 with an additional \$2,500.00 promised in matching funds from UVMC administration. The funds will be sent to the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

“This is the right thing to do,” said UVMC President & CEO Mark E. LaRose. “Our prayers and thoughts are with all of those in the Gulf Coast. Even though hospitals throughout the country are struggling to keep up with providing for their local needs, our administrative team felt this was a priority to help our colleagues and fellow Americans in the Gulf Coast.”

UVMC Marketing and Development Director Jarrod McNaughton said, “It is a pleasure working at an organization who not only cares for our local community, but sees needs around the world and answers those needs with action.”

According to McNaughton UVMC is working closely with the American Hospital Association (AHA) for further assistance the hospital can provide through volunteers to travel to the effected areas. “We've had several requests from local physicians and nurses who are interested in volunteering in the Gulf Coast and we're working with the AHA to provide any assistance we can,” said McNaughton.

The AHA is partnering with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other national and state hospital associations to help coordinate medical relief efforts for hospitals and patients affected by Hurricane Katrina. The agency will mobilize up to 40 250-bed federal emergency shelters to stabilize and provide basic medical care to hospital and nursing home patients evacuated from the affected areas, as well as individuals with storm-related injuries.

In order to set up these facilities, HHS is asking for assistance from the nation's hospitals in staffing and managing the centers, and will be providing a specific list of needs soon. "Until we have the specific request from HHS, we're doing our best to get cash to the region through our employee giving campaign and, of course, keeping the victims of this tragedy in our prayers and thoughts," said McNaughton.

According to McNaughton, individual health care professionals wishing to volunteer their services outside the scope of their hospital or health system can find information and sign-up on HHS's website at [volunteer.ccrf.hhs.gov](http://volunteer.ccrf.hhs.gov). This effort is being coordinated by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General.

"The bottom line, it's great to work at an organization whose mission of caring for community extends beyond our valley and into the rest of the world," said McNaughton.

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*Ukiah Valley Medical Center is part of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit, faith-based health system operating in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Founded on the Seventh-day Adventist heritage of Christian health care, Adventist Health is comprised of 20 hospitals with more than 3,100 beds, 18,800 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, 16 home care agencies and three joint-venture retirement centers. For more information, visit [www.uvmc.org](http://www.uvmc.org) or [www.adventisthealth.org](http://www.adventisthealth.org).*