



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TDI ANNOUNCES FUND FOR KATRINA SURVIVORS
WHO ARE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**
Donations to Go Toward Restoring Communication Access

SILVER SPRING, MD [September 8, 2005] – TDI has announced a new fund for deaf and hard of hearing survivors of Hurricane Katrina who may need financial assistance to restore communication access. Donations to this fund will go toward replacing telecommunication technologies lost or damaged as a result of the worst natural disaster ever to hit the United States.

All donations will go to an ad hoc restricted fund, namely TDI Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. A committee will be appointed by the TDI Board of Directors to provide oversight of the expenditures from this Fund, and to decide on appropriate administrative measures to support the telecommunication needs of displaced Gulf Coast citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing.

While other relief funds may cover basic needs of survivors with hearing loss, such as food and shelter, the TDI Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund will fulfill a range of technology-based telecommunication needs of such individuals. These needs may include replacement of technologies such as amplified phones, TTYs, captioned telephones, NOAA weather radios, portable televisions with captioning, web cams, videophones, incoming telephone call alerting devices and basic pager equipment needs.

“Losing one’s home and property is a devastating experience for anyone. But to someone who depends on special technologies to facilitate telecommunication, the loss of those technologies that are their lifeline to news and other critical information can rapidly escalate any emergency into a serious life-threatening crisis,” said Dr. Roy Miller, TDI President. “Having the essential tools to receive and send information will go a long way to alleviate the stress of recovering from the disaster, and allow them to move on with their lives.

If you wish to help displaced Gulf Coast residents who are deaf and hard of hearing, please make a contribution today.

- If paying by check or money order, please make it payable to “**TDI Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund**” Donations may be mailed to:

TDI Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 604
Silver Spring, MD 20910

- Contributions made by credit/debit card may be faxed (with payment information) to TDI at 301-589-3797.

TDI is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

- TDI's federal ID number is 35-1146784.

About TDI: TDI is a non-profit advocacy organization that promotes equal access to telecommunications and media for individuals who are deaf, late deafened, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind. Since 1968, TDI has successfully advocated for a variety of federal legislation to improve the lives of people with hearing loss, including the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of 1988, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Television Decoder Circuitry Act, both of 1990, and the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In addition, TDI advocates for administrative rules and policies that would provide greater access to wireless technology, as well as complete and high quality captioning of television programs. Since its inception, TDI has promoted equal access to 9-1-1 centers and other public safety answering points, and is now working to ensure full access for deaf and hard of hearing people to information during natural or manmade disasters and other types of emergencies. TDI annually publishes a National Directory & Resource Guide, commonly known as The Blue Book that is a popular resource book for people with hearing loss as well as the GA-SK Quarterly News Magazine. For more information about TDI, visit www.tdi-online.org.

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