

**Forward Edge  
International**

v 360.574.3343

f 360.574.2118

[www.forwardedge.org](http://www.forwardedge.org)

[fei@forwardedge.org](mailto:fei@forwardedge.org)

15121-A NE 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

Vancouver, WA 98686

## **Christian ministry reaches out to Katrina survivors**

***Forward Edge International is already  
preparing teams of volunteers and supplies  
for the desperate and destitute along the  
central Gulf Coast.***

*September 2, 2005*

Forward Edge International has begun an emergency response to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina along the central Gulf Coast, in cooperation with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and other relief organizations around the country.

The images of the last few days seem out of Africa—refugees fleeing on foot, pushing their only belongings in grocery carts or carrying them in plastic bags...gun-toting looters...reports of at least hundreds and likely thousands dead...“unspeakable stench, chaos, and general misery” among tens of thousands in a refugee center.

Yet this is New Orleans on the U.S.’s own Gulf Coast. Eighty percent of the Big Easy is flooded, some of it under 20 feet of water. In the water float bodies, chemicals, and other contaminants that the flood surge and levee breaches have loosed. Now these thousands of acres of water are turning stagnant and breeding disease.

To victims in these wretched and desperate conditions, Forward Edge will be sending teams of short-term volunteers to assist with the distribution of critical life-saving necessities (food, water, clothing), with clean-up, and with emergency health care.

FEI is part of a national relief network with access to emergency aid in a dozen warehouses across the country, from which desperately needed supplies will be trucked to the disaster areas.

Beyond the initial relief response—and in keeping with its organizational precedent spanning more than two decades—Forward Edge will extend its efforts into a long-term recovery phase, including clean-up and reconstruction.

FEI has a history of delivering aid and assisting in reconstruction projects following natural disasters—tasks that typically create ongoing relationships with a country’s or community’s people and long-term development projects in those communities. Teams and material were dispatched earlier this year to Sri Lanka’s tsunami-ravaged coasts... to Manhattan’s Ground Zero immediately following the 9/11 attacks (2001)... to earthquake-stricken El Salvador (2000)...to Nicaragua following Hurricane Mitch (1998).

Donations to FEI’s Hurricane Katrina relief efforts can be sent to Forward Edge International, 15121-A NE 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Vancouver, WA 98686; please make checks payable to Forward Edge. Or go online to [forwardedge.org](http://forwardedge.org) and click on the Donate icon.

For more information about the response of Forward Edge International to the Hurricane Katrina disaster relief efforts along the Gulf coast, phone 360-574-3343. For information about volunteering in the disaster area along the Gulf Coast—whether just you, or a group from your church, school, or organization—contact Helen Little at [h\\_little@forwardedge.org](mailto:h_little@forwardedge.org) (360.574.3343).

**About Forward Edge International...**

Since 1983 Forward Edge International has mobilized young people and adults to express God's love in practical ways in the U.S. and around the world. FEI organizes and facilitates teams of short-term volunteers (from churches, schools, and campuses) to complete service projects, distribute emergency aid, and—in the words of executive director Anfuso—“be the hands and feet of Jesus.” In its two decades this nonprofit has equipped and sent more than 700 short-term mission teams and 8,000 volunteers to 33 nations.

**CONTACT:**

Joseph Anfuso  
office 360-574-3343  
cell 360-907-6376

Helen Little  
office 360-574-3343  
cell 503-473-7294