

**Forward Edge
International**

v 360.574.3343

f 360.574.2118

www.forwardedge.org

fei@forwardedge.org

15121-A NE 72nd Ave.

Vancouver, WA 98686

Local relief agency sending volunteer teams, supplies from Portland to Katrina's poor, homeless, elderly

***Chief of Vancouver-based Forward Edge
International will hold a press conference on
Tuesday in Portland, announcing FEI's timely
progress in getting volunteers and supplies
from the Portland area to the Gulf Coast.***

September 12, 2005

The executive director of Forward Edge International, Joseph Anfuso, has called a press conference for this Tuesday to explain a leading role that Forward Edge is taking in local relief efforts.

The press conference will be held at 9:30 a.m. on September 13, at 6641 SE Johnson Creek Blvd. in Clackamas County (Exit 16 off the 205).

Immediately following hurricane Katrina, a nationwide coalition of churches and relief agencies called the Katrina Response Initiative began forming—a network that includes not only a diverse and continually expanding team of partners, but also numerous warehouses around the country.

In addition to being the Initiative's local organizer in the Greater Portland area, Forward Edge has been asked by the Initiative to coordinate volunteers to the disaster area from around the country. Already teams from Oregon and Washington are being assembled.

Forward Edge, a Vancouver-based relief and mission agency, is "focusing in particular on assisting the elderly and the poor with no insurance to get back into their homes," said FEI's Anfuso. "To this end we are coordinating the efforts of churches in the Greater Portland area to bring volunteers, supplies, and hope to those in the Katrina disaster zone."

The Katrina Response Initiative makes it possible for churches and individuals in the Portland Vancouver area to participate in strategic, meaningful ways:

- **You can participate in a local drive for food and basic necessities** Warehouses have been designated in the Portland-Vancouver area where supplies are being collected. Drop-off sites are also being organized, primarily at churches. Go online to katrinaportland.com to see the kinds of supplies you can donate, or call 360-574.3343.

Volunteers will be needed to staff both the warehouses and the drop-off sites. If you want to volunteer at a warehouse or drop-off site—or if your church, workplace, or home can be a drop-off site—complete the online application or call 360-574.3343.

- **You can travel to the disaster zone and serve as a short-term volunteer.** Staging sites are being identified and field coordinators situated in the disaster zone, and already volunteer teams from across the country (including teams from the Portland-Vancouver area) are being scheduled—hundreds in the next few weeks, thousands in the months to come. If you are an individual or a church interested in sending a team to serve in the disaster zone complete the online application at katrinaportland.com or call 360-574.3343.

- **You can donate money to the relief effort** Checks may be sent to Forward Edge International, 15121-A NE 72nd Ave., Vancouver, WA 98686; please make checks payable to Forward Edge. Or go online to katrinaportland.com and click on the Donate icon.

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.

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).

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 katrina@forwardedge.org or call 360-574-3343.

CONTACT:

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

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

katrinaportland.com

The Katrina Response Initiative
Forward Edge International