

THE INSIDE STORY



Allegheny County Pulls Together to Provide a Safe Haven for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

In September 2005, [Allegheny County public and private agencies and individuals in the community rose to the challenge](#) of supporting more than 250 persons who fled the Gulf Coast and made their way to Allegheny County in the aftermath of the natural disaster caused by Hurricane Katrina. The [Department of Human Services coordinated the efforts](#) that lead to Allegheny County opening a one-stop center staffed with representatives from diverse providers of services, both short-term and long-term. Individuals and families found assistance with housing, food, clothing, education, medical, records retrieval and employment services.

The University of Pittsburgh, Institute of Politics prepared a report of the efforts – [Hurricane Katrina: A Community's Response to a National Disaster](#), written by former Pittsburgh Post-Gazette editor Clarke Thomas.

Allegheny County's response to the aftermath of Katrina was not without its precedent. Hurricane Ivan had devastated the County just one year prior. [The County](#), through its departments– including the [Department of Human Services](#), had pulled together a similar network of supports to assisted affected residents.

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