



For Immediate Release:

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Neighborhood Centers Hosts Additional Recovery Fairs for Hurricane Ike Survivors

Stay Connected Texas event connects people to resources and services

Houston, TX February 5, 2010 – Neighborhood Centers Inc. continues to host community service fairs in southeast Texas for people, affected by Hurricane Ike, with ongoing needs. To date, NCI's Stay Connected Texas program has served more than 10,000 individuals and families. The event includes on-site case managers who guide individuals and families through the recovery process. Case managers will help to identify the family's needs, prepare a recovery plan and direct them to the services and resources.

Below is a list of upcoming Ike recovery fairs:

Fifth Ward

Friday, Feb. 19, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Finnigan Park
4900 Providence
Houston, TX 77020

Northeast Houston

Friday, Feb. 26, Noon to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tidwell Park Community Center
9720 Spaulding at Tidwell Rd.
Houston, TX 77016

Neighborhood Centers' Stay Connected Texas provides a compassionate response to both material and emotional needs of people who have been affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes. Neighborhood Centers Inc. established the program in 2005 following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The program connects participants with services and resources that will assist them in the long-term recovery process. It's become a model long-term case management program for helping families whose recovery from a natural disaster is particularly difficult. The program is designed to help each family identify its assets and gain access to appropriate resources through each stage of recovery.

The community recovery fairs are part of the \$43.1 million award from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to help thousands of people in Harris County who were affected by Hurricane Ike and still are recovering from the disaster that struck on September 13, 2008. Neighborhood Centers' Stay Connected Texas program will help to meet the needs of individuals and families in Harris County still picking up the pieces.

The HHSC grant is part of its Hurricane Ike Texas Rise and Connect project (HITRAC), funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The pilot project was formed to help families rebuild their lives by making plans for their own recovery and working through that process.

For assistance, call Neighborhood Centers Inc. at (713) 667-5853 or visit www.stayconnectedtexas.org

Neighborhood Centers Inc.

Neighborhood Centers Inc. brings resources, education and connection to more than 236,000 people throughout the Texas Gulf Coast area each year. Our 59 service locations offer comprehensive community-based programs for people at every stage of life – from infants to seniors. We work with residents of underserved communities to help them discover the strengths and skills necessary to become productive, prosperous and self-sufficient. Founded in 1907 by the grandmother of former U.S. Secretary of States James A. Baker III, Neighborhood Centers Inc. combines passion, commitment and an entrepreneurial philosophy to make the human dream a reality for all who are willing to work for it. Neighborhood Centers Inc. is a United Way agency. For more information, visit www.neighborhood-centers.org.

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