

# CITY BUSINESS

## Report: Nonprofits crucial to post-K recovery

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NEW ORLEANS - Nonprofits are doing much of the post-Hurricane Katrina recovery work in New Orleans and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast, a report released today says.

Despite Katrina fatigue and bureaucracy slowing down the flow of federal rebuilding dollars, "the volunteers continue to come and the nonprofit organizations continue to provide services to the affected communities," says "GulfGov Reports: Response, Recovery, and the Role of the Nonprofit Community in the two Years Since Katrina and Rita."

The report is part of an ongoing research project conducted by the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government and the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana.

GulfGov reports, launched about a year ago, are a series of studies that examine the impacts of hurricanes Katrina and Rita across 22 communities in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

In the two years since the storms, more than 1.1 million people have put in 14 million volunteer hours helping in the recovery, the report says, citing August statistics from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"That translates to an estimated \$263 million in services, according to the group," the report says.

The Foundation Center reported that institutional donors, such as corporations, foundations and business and professional groups, had contributed more than \$1 billion, including in-kind services, from August 2005 to June, the report says.

"The scope of the nonprofit community's work in helping the Gulf Coast region rebuild has been unprecedented," said Jim Brandt, PAR president and a co-investigator for GulfGov reports. "It has included everything from national foundations investing millions of dollars in the recovery to out-of-town groups making frequent rebuilding trips to locally based groups lobbying for policy changes. There is no question that the nonprofit community is helping to push the recovery forward."