

# The American Nurses Association

## The Voice, The Power of Nurses



### From the front lines of disaster relief...

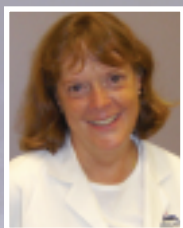
Throughout history, nurses have always answered the “call to care” in times of war, epidemics and natural disasters.

When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck, the American Nurses Association and its state nurses associations were already on the ground.

The American Nurses Association became the information clearinghouse for the nursing community, aiding state and federal governments, the American Red Cross and other emergency relief efforts. More than 20,000 nurses from all across the nation responded — far exceeding the immediate need.

When the federal government needed to recruit certified psychiatric/mental health and gerontological nurses — they came to ANA, and the need was met.

Janice E. Bussert, BSN, RN, a member of the ANA Board of Directors, spent three weeks in Mississippi helping hurricane victims. She says, “We would load up our car with toys, clothes, ice and water and visit neighborhood homes in the area. It was so rewarding because these people really needed this help.”



Janice Bussert

As a way “for nurses to take care of their own,” the American Nurses Foundation created the Katrina Fund. One hundred percent (100%) of funds donated to this fund will be contributed to assist nurses personally affected by storms in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

To donate to the Katrina Fund, visit [www.NursingWorld.org/anf/katrina.htm](http://www.NursingWorld.org/anf/katrina.htm).

**The ANA thanks all the nurses who are responding to these disasters.**

### ...to the U.S. Capitol

Following Hurricane Katrina, it was ANA who was called to testify before a joint subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives at a hearing to assess the public health and delivery of health care following Hurricane Katrina.

*“As a nurse practitioner who has worked with the homeless, I know that people from the Gulf Coast will require many months of medical and mental health services to deal with the consequences of this horrific storm. Their needs are not temporary, and neither should the response be. That is why I am here today asking this Committee to abandon plans to reduce funding for Medicaid in the reconciliation process. Now is not the time to further unravel the health care safety net.”*

— ANA President Barbara Blakeney, MS, RN  
September 22, 2005



**Join ANA and tell your members of Congress to preserve the health care safety net.**

For updates, visit the ANA Web site at [www.NursingWorld.org](http://www.NursingWorld.org).

Just as you are there for your patients – Let ANA be there for you.

  
**ANA**  
AMERICAN NURSES  
ASSOCIATION