



Relief applications still coming in

SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN

Two local funds set up to help Florida Keys victims of Hurricane Wilma are receiving more requests for help than they have money to give — but fundraising efforts continue.

The My Key West Emergency Relief Fund and the affiliated Singh Hurricane Wilma Relief Fund have received grant applications totaling more than \$600,000 and have already granted approximately \$440,000, according to a press release from fund organizers.

More than a dozen local nonprofit agencies that are providing direct assistance to Hurricane Wilma victims have or will be receiving funding, among them Habitat for Humanity for supplies and materials for home repairs, WomanKind for medical services and counseling, Florida Keys Outreach Coalition for displaced individuals and families, St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church for a food bank, The American Red Cross for a variety of services, St. Peter Catholic Church for a food bank and the Salvation Army for food, clothing and household appliances.

On Tuesday, the fund approved another \$162,500 in disbursements to: Just 4 Kids for clothing, school supplies and hygiene items; MARC House for insurance loss for roofs of two group homes; PACE Center for Girls to replace furniture for dorm housing; AIDS Help for food vouchers for 100 clients; Easter Seals Florida Keys Region for assistance to 60 families in the Florida Early Steps program; Domestic Abuse Shelter for food vouchers for 22 women; United Pentecostal Church of the Keys in Big Coppitt Key to assist area families; Wesley House to assist 80 child-care providers; and to St. Mary Star of the Sea for appliances.

Most recently the Singh Hurricane Relief Fund granted \$100,000 to St. Mary's. These funds will help 200 families purchase household appliances to replace those lost to Wilma's storm surge. Pritam Singh and his son Tyler Reynolds stated that the Singh Fund — which was primarily established to aid victims to purchase appliances and assist in rent and mortgage payments — had received more than 1,000 applications; however funds were only available to cover 200 requests, according to the press release.

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Steven Key Third grade Poinciana Elementary School

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