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ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY AND MARCH OF DIMES HELPING BABIES AND PREGNANT WOMEN IMPERILED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

Project Stork's Nest Delivery will include 171 infant and maternal care facilities/programs, and 800 Zeta Phi Beta chapters across the nation.

WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPT. 15, 2005 – Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and the March of Dimes are mobilizing their nationwide network of infant and maternal care facilities to meet the needs of sick and premature babies and pregnant women imperiled by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

Zeta Phi Beta and the March of Dimes are expanding their national network of 171 Stork's Nests. Through Stork's Nest, pregnant women in need will get maternity clothes, baby clothes and furniture at minimal or no cost. The program also will integrate women living in shelters and temporary housing into health education seminars including prenatal care, nutrition, infant care, and parenting.

“Our Stork's Nest facilities have been a tremendous resource for women and their infants for over 30 years. Expanding the program to include the communities and individuals impacted by the hurricane is a natural extension of our service commitment,” Barbara C. Moore, International President.

Many of the facilities are located in or near communities impacted by the hurricane or in communities with a large displaced population creating a need for support from other areas to fill the void.

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Zeta chapters throughout the nation will join March of Dimes volunteers in collecting infant care items to be donated to shelters, churches, individual families, as well as Stork's Nest facilities.

According to the March of Dimes, the long-term needs for mothers and babies in affected areas that must be addressed over the next 3 to 12 months include:

- an expected rise in the number of babies born prematurely, who will require specialized care;
- a potentially large increase in the number of births in towns and cities such as Baton Rouge and Jackson, Mississippi that are housing evacuees, putting strain on existing facilities and services;
- organizing and deploying more outreach workers and trained health professionals to provide prenatal care and counseling for displaced pregnant women;
- updated information for pregnant women and families on available services as situations change;
- purchasing infant and child vaccinations for shelters and clinics.

“Zeta Phi Beta will continue to do its part in collaboration with the March of Dimes to address the needs of pregnant women and infants. Every child deserves a healthy start,” said Moore.

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Created in 1972, Stork's Nest is a prenatal education program operated by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and the March of Dimes and cooperating community agencies. The program has three major objectives: provide prenatal education and incentives to low income pregnant women, motivate women to get early, regular prenatal care through earned incentives, and educate women on self-care during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum. More than 170 Stork's Nest facilities are located throughout the United States. To find more about a local Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. chapter or about the Stork's Nest nearest you, contact: the Sorority at 202-387-3103 or evelyn756@aol.com.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded in 1920 in Washington, D.C., on the belief that the social nature of sorority life should not overshadow the real mission of progressive organizations—to address societal mores, ills, prejudices, poverty, and health concerns of the day. The international organization's more than 125,000 initiated members and affiliates have given millions of voluntary hours to educate the public, provide scholarships, support organized charities and promote legislation for social and civic change. Zeta Phi Beta has more than 800 chapters in the United States and abroad. For more information on the Sorority and its programs, please visit www.zphib1920.org.