



**134 East Amite Street  
Jackson, MS 39201**  
*www.fndmidsouth.org*

Chris Crothers, Communications Director  
Foundation for the Mid South  
601.863.0483  
*ccrothers@fndmidsouth.org*

Susan Arnot Heaney  
Avon Foundation  
212-282-5668  
*susan.heaney@avonfoundation.org*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GRANTS AWARDED TO MISSISSIPPI NONPROFITS WORKING TO PROVIDE JUST AND EQUITABLE HOUSING**

***The Avon Foundation and the Foundation for the Mid South provide funds to  
organizations working to assist women with housing.***

**JACKSON, MS** (July 11, 2006) – The Avon Foundation in partnership with the Foundation for the Mid South has awarded \$485,000 in grants to nineteen nonprofit housing organizations in the Mid South to aid their recovery efforts. The grants—a total of twelve made to Mississippi organizations—provide funds to nonprofits that are addressing housing and shelter issues for displaced women or women who are heads of households and their families.

Grants up to \$50,000 were available through the Avon Foundation Housing Program Fund to support nonprofits' efforts in addressing an equitable recovery and restoration process. Funding for the grants from the Housing Program Fund was made possible by the Avon Foundation as part of their commitment to effectively respond to national and international disasters.

“The Foundation for the Mid South is committed to restoring housing in the hurricane-affected areas of the Mid South in a way that promotes equity for those who call the region home,” said Ivey Allen, president of the Foundation for the Mid South. “With dedicated partners like the Avon Foundation, we are working in new ways to respond to the disasters and to take an active role in rebuilding the Mid South better than it was before.”

The organizations selected to receive grants include: Mississippi Association of Community Action Agencies, Jackson; Mercy Housing and Human Development, Gulfport; Habitat for Humanities / Metro Jackson's Hancock County Project, Jackson; New Hope M.B. Church, The Vision Center, Natchez; Voice of Calvary Ministries, Jackson; Restoration Point Foundation, Pass Christian; Disaster Recovery Services of George County, Lucedale; Visions of Hope, Biloxi; Pinebelt Community Development Corporation, Hattiesburg; Bethel Lutheran Church Hurricane Katrina Ministry, Biloxi; AJFC Community Action Agency, Inc., Natchez; and Safe Haven Outreach Ministries, Inc., Columbia.

---more---

“The Avon Foundation is proud to be a part of the critical recovery efforts in the wake of the devastating hurricanes,” stated Carol Kurzig, Executive Director, Avon Foundation. “There is still much work to be done and we are pleased to play a part.”

### **About The Avon Foundation**

The Avon Foundation, an accredited 501(c)(3) public charity, was founded in 1955 to improve the lives of women and their families. Now past the half-century milestone, the Avon Foundation brings this mission to life with a focus on breast cancer and domestic violence as well as special projects in response to national or international emergencies. Avon and the Avon Foundation make cash donations and raise funds for ongoing relief efforts through the sale of fundraising products sold by Avon Sales Representatives. The Avon Foundation Housing Program Fund was created through the sale of a special Avon fundraising product, the *Heart of America key chain*. For more information on the Avon Foundation visit [www.avonfoundation.org](http://www.avonfoundation.org).

### **About The Foundation for the Mid South**

The Foundation for the Mid South is a not-for-profit, regional development foundation that invests in people and strategies that build philanthropy and promote racial, social, and economic equity in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Operating since 1989, the total impact of the Foundation’s work is estimated at \$150 million in new resources for the region.

###