

Foundation for the Mid South
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

**GRANTS AVAILABLE TO MID SOUTH NONPROFITS WORKING
TO PROVIDE JUST AND EQUITABLE HOUSING**

***The Avon Foundation and the Foundation for the Mid South establish a
fund to assist organizations working to address equity in housing issues.***

JACKSON, MS (March 13, 2006) – The Avon Foundation in partnership with the Foundation for the Mid South announced today that they have released a request for proposals to solicit applications from nonprofit housing organizations in the Mid South to aid their recovery efforts. A total of \$500,000 is available to provide operating support to nonprofits directly affected by the hurricanes 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 are available through the Avon Foundation Housing Program Fund to support nonprofits' efforts in addressing an equitable recovery and restoration process. Nonprofits have been greatly impacted by the hurricanes and are in need of assistance if they are to be able to assist families in the rebuilding of the region. 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.

“As we continue our work to help the Mid South nonprofit sector recover after the hurricanes and continue our efforts to promote equity in the Mid South, we are pleased with our new partnership with the Avon Foundation and how we are working together to respond to the disasters,” said Beverly Wade-Hogan, Foundation for the Mid South board chairperson. “The vision of the Avon Foundation and the intent of the Avon Foundation Housing Program Fund is perfectly aligned with our views on how the region can rebuild better than it was before—if we include everyone while we do it.”

Nonprofit housing organizations are invited and encouraged to submit grant applications through a competitive grant process that begins today and will be managed by the Foundation for the Mid South in Jackson, Mississippi. Applicants should visit the Foundation's website at www.fndmidsouth.org to download The Avon Foundation Housing Program Fund Grant Guidelines and the Grant Cover Sheet, which includes the

---more---

eligibility requirements, guidelines, and grant application; or call (601) 355-8167 to request an application. Completed grant applications must be received at the Foundation for the Mid South's office (134 East Amite Street / Jackson, MS 39201) by 5 p.m. on April 15, 2006.

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.

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.

###