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## **RECOVERY GRANTS AWARDED TO HURRICANE-AFFECTED HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS**

***The Baxter International Foundation Health Recovery Fund awards grants totaling \$250,000 to support mid-south health organizations' recovery efforts***

**JACKSON, MS** (May 4, 2006) – The Foundation for the Mid South announced today the recipients of the first round of grants from The Baxter International Foundation Health Recovery Fund, established in February to provide support to community-based health care clinics, nonprofits, and other community-based health services in the Mid South for restoration efforts after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

A total of \$250,000 in health recovery grants have been awarded to 15 health service organizations throughout Louisiana and Mississippi. In the foundation's second round of funding, an additional \$500,000 will be awarded in restoration grants to other health service organizations in need. During the process, the Mid South Health Initiative Advisory Board, comprised of leading health professionals in the Mid South, will recommend grants to the Foundation for the Mid South's Board of Directors for approval.

Funds from this first round of grants will be used to meet a variety of needs including the restoration of services, interim or expanded staffing, relocation and renovation fees, inventory replacement of medication and supplies, and essential small equipment and furniture.

Applicants that received funding include: LSU Health Services Center of Metairie, LA; The Center for Children and Families, Inc. of Northwest Louisiana of Monroe, LA; St. Bernard Medical Group of Chalmette, LA; Louisiana Emergency Mobile Medical Units of Lafayette, LA; The Prometheus Group of New Orleans, LA; United Way of Southwest Louisiana and Lower Cameron Hospital Service District of Lake Charles, LA; Outreach Health Services, Inc. of Shubuta, MS; Delta Health Center, Inc. of Mound Bayou, MS; Medical Foundation of South Mississippi, Inc. of Gulfport, MS; Project HOPE of Biloxi, MS; Desoto Health and Wellness Center of Walls, MS; Catholic Charities, Inc. and Voices of Calvary Family Health Center of Jackson, MS.

"This first round of recovery grants from The Baxter International Foundation will help these local healthcare professionals restore their clinics and begin to reestablish their services for families and communities in need," said Celene Peurye, executive director, The Baxter International Foundation.

**About The Baxter International Foundation**

The Baxter International Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Baxter International Inc., helps organizations increase access to healthcare in the United States and around the world. The Foundation, established in 1981, began to focus exclusively on increasing access to healthcare in 2002 – particularly for the disadvantaged and underserved – in and near communities where Baxter employees live and work.

Baxter International Inc., through its subsidiaries, assists healthcare professionals and their patients with the treatment of complex medical conditions, including cancer, hemophilia, immune disorders, kidney disease and trauma. The company applies its expertise in medical devices, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology to make a meaningful difference in patients' lives.

**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.

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