



THE LAURA BUSH FOUNDATION
FOR AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries was established in 2002 to provide school libraries with new books to expand and improve their collections. Since 2003, the Laura Bush Foundation has distributed grants totaling more than \$3 million to 634 schools in 49 states across the United States. These grants are distributed annually in May.

In March 2006, Mrs. Laura Bush announced that the Laura Bush Foundation had created the *Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative*, which makes grants available to buy books for school libraries that were destroyed or damaged in the 2005 hurricanes. The LBF initiative funds libraries in schools being renovated and rebuilt as well as new schools being established in the Gulf Coast region to serve students in the areas devastated by the storms.

Background

The 2005 Atlantic hurricane season had a record-breaking 26 named tropical storms including 13 hurricanes. Three of these, Katrina, Rita and Wilma, were especially damaging. More than a thousand people lost their lives due to these hurricanes, and millions more were displaced or left homeless. Hundreds of public, private, parochial and charter schools in Louisiana and Mississippi were destroyed or severely damaged. School districts in Texas, Florida and Alabama also reported losses. Part of the destruction was the loss of school libraries, including thousands of books used and enjoyed by the students.

School libraries serve critical functions for students and schools. They provide information for scholarly pursuits, they help students use reading to expand their universe, and they offer books that provide friendly solace to children who want an escape from their normal lives. Because books were no longer available for many students, the Laura Bush Foundation is helping re-establish the libraries and book collections. In addition to monetary grants for books, the Foundation also provides technical assistance and support to the librarians as they re-build the collections.

Helping Hurricane Affected Gulf Coast School Libraries

November 29, 2006: \$1 million in grants awarded to Bunche Accelerated Academy, Metairie, LA; Eastlawn Elementary School, Pascagoula, MS; Gautier Elementary School, Gautier, MS; Glynn H. Brock Elementary School, Slidell, LA; Gulfview-Charles B. Murphy Elementary School, Kiln, MS; L.W. Higgins High School, Marrero, LA; Lusher Charter Elementary School, New Orleans, LA; Lusher Charter Middle/High School – Fortier Campus, New Orleans, LA; Martin Behrman Charter School, New Orleans, LA; Memorial High School, Port Arthur, TX; Metairie Park Country Day School, Metairie, LA; New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School, New Orleans, LA; Peebles Elementary School, New Iberia, LA; Pensacola Beach Elementary School, Pensacola Beach, FL; Phoenix High School, Braithwaite, LA; St. Rosalie School, Harvey, LA; South Plaquemines Elementary School, Port Sulphur, LA; Waveland Elementary School, Bay St. Louis, MS; West Jefferson High School, Harvey, LA; Xavier University Preparatory School, New Orleans, LA.

August 29, 2006: \$540,000 in grants awarded to Bay-Waveland Middle School, Bay St. Louis, MS; Benjamin Franklin High School, New Orleans, LA; Brother Martin High School, New Orleans, LA; Dozier Elementary School, Erath, LA; St. Mary's Dominican High School, New Orleans, LA; Saint Stanislaus College, Bay St. Louis, MS; Salmen High School, Slidell, LA; South Plaquemines High School, Port Sulphur, LA; Trent Lott Middle School, Pascagoula, MS; Warren Easton Senior High School, New Orleans, LA.

May 3, 2006: \$500,000 in grants awarded to Andrew Jackson Elementary/Middle School, Chalmette, LA; Chalmette High School, Chalmette, LA; Gorenflo Elementary, Biloxi, MS; North Bay Elementary, Bay St. Louis, MS; Our Lady of Lourdes, Slidell, LA; Our Lady of Prompt Succor Central School, Chalmette, LA; Second Street Elementary, Bay St. Louis, MS; Seventh Ward Elementary, Abbeville, LA; St. Mary's Academy, New Orleans, LA; St. Tammany Jr. High School, Slidell, LA.

Applying for Grants: The Laura Bush Foundation, a fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, uses a competitive grant process to distribute the funds for books. The LBF will continue to make grants as schools become functional. To learn more about eligibility requirements and to apply, please visit www.laurabushfoundation.org