



THE LAURA BUSH FOUNDATION
FOR AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

Restoring Gulf Coast School Libraries Through The Laura Bush Foundation's *Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative*

Background

The 2005 Atlantic hurricane season had a record-breaking 26 named tropical storms including 13 hurricanes. Three of these storms, 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. Many schools were destroyed and part of the destruction was the loss of their libraries.

According to the US Department of Education, 1,121 schools were damaged or destroyed by these hurricanes. The basic initial cost of restoring an elementary school library is upwards of \$50,000 and the cost for a secondary school library is \$100,000 and up.

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

On March 8, 2006 in New Orleans, Louisiana and in Gautier, Mississippi, Mrs. Laura Bush announced that The Laura Bush Foundation has created *The Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative*, which makes grants available for books for school libraries in the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

Helping Hurricane-Affected Gulf Coast School Libraries

- **Creating A New Task Force and New Funding.** *The Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative* creates a new fund and a new task force, which will be led by individuals from private entities, non-profits and members of The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries' Leadership Council. Under the direction of The Laura Bush Foundation, *The Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative* Task Force will guide additional fundraising and operations.
- **Collaborating with Partners to Restore School Libraries.** *The Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative* will seek to collaborate with the private sector, non-profits and other partners to help libraries in schools destroyed or damaged by the hurricanes.
- **Applying for Grants.** The Laura Bush Foundation has funding available for an initial round of grants. Additional funding cycles will occur throughout the year as more funds become available. The Laura Bush Foundation will use a competitive grant process to distribute the funds for books. The existing Advisory Committee that reviews the grant applications for The Laura Bush Foundation grants will also review applications for *The Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative*.
- To apply and to learn more about eligibility requirements, please visit www.laurabushfoundation.org

The **Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries** was established in July 2001 to provide school libraries with new books to expand and improve their collections. The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries is a fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region has a long history of managing funds and grant processes for foundations large and small. The Laura Bush Foundation has distributed 428 grants totaling more than \$2 million to schools in 49 states across the United States.

www.laurabushfoundation.org