



THE LAURA BUSH FOUNDATION
FOR AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

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Laura Bush Foundation Announces \$540,000 In Grants To Gulf Coast School Libraries

New Orleans, LA - The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries awarded \$540,000 in Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative grants to ten schools in Louisiana and Mississippi. In May 2006, ten schools in Louisiana and Mississippi received grants, making the total grants awarded over \$1 million in the first five months of the initiative.

"The best hope for a bright future for the Gulf Coast are new schools. And at the heart of each of these new schools is its school library. Thanks to generous corporations, compassionate private citizens, and determined Gulf Coast librarians, school library collections washed away by the hurricanes are now being rebuilt," said Mrs. Bush.

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries is partnering with corporations who share the goal to rebuild Gulf Coast school library collections. The AT&T Foundation and ConocoPhillips have each committed \$1 million. Other corporate partners include Target with a \$250,000 contribution and the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation with a contribution of \$150,000. The generosity of these corporations and foundations as well as interested individuals will enable the Laura Bush Foundation to fund book collections in more Gulf Coast schools this year as the school libraries become staffed and functional.

Grantees announced today include:

- 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/South Plaquemines Elementary – Port Sulphur, LA
- Trent Lott Middle School – Pascagoula, MS
- Warren Easton Senior High School – New Orleans, LA

Many schools in the Gulf Coast region were destroyed or severely damaged in 2005 by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, and part of the destruction was the loss of the schools' libraries. As a response to Mrs. Bush's concern for the students of these affected schools, the Laura Bush Foundation established a special fund to help restore the book collections for the school libraries.

The Foundation continues to accept applications at www.laurabushfoundation.org. All schools that lost book collections in the 2005 hurricanes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas are encouraged to apply.

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