

The "Katrina Kids" campaign came about as a response to the following email HERO received from one of its' members. Karl Robinson wrote the following on 10/12/05.

I know allot of you have not met me yet. I apologize for that, but every time you guys get something going, I am out of town on a Harris mission. The latest one is The Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort I have been here for almost a month, and I will be here until, at least, the end of the month. This is not a normal trip for Harris. There is a lot of suffering out here, and Harris said, "We can help." I am one of the we. We are providing Communication Antenna for emergency personnel, and for some common folks. Everyone who was ensnared in this mess can be called common folks. This place was decimated and they are all in the same boat. The accommodations have not been that good for the Harris people, yet we have been living in luxury compared to the victims of this disaster. At any rate, if there are anymore backpacks left over, **send them out**. I know there are kids who really need them. I know we are a local effort, but there is a great need out here. Write me back if there is anything left over and I will make arrangement and get them out here....Karl

Those words were an SOS to the HERO program that could not go ignored. So an email was sent to all the coordinators. After speaking to Linda McKay, the local librarian in Hancock, Mississippi, we realized she was trying to put together a "Tent School" for the Katrina Kids. So, we put our heads together and as a HERO team, we donated surplus supplies, leftover items from the backpack campaign, 6 computers (to setup in a damaged library) AND the retiree's association put together a large donation to purchase items. They designated Nick Bahorich to take on the task of going out and buying much needed items such as, crayons, pencils, erasers, rulers, paper, books, etc. to add to the donations. Within 12 days we had 2 truckloads on its' way to Mississippi. Below are some pictures to show the effort that went into this campaign from beginning to end.

HERO helping out Katrina Kids

Donate school supplies for a school
(Tent School) in Mississippi through
October 24th.



Your donated supplies will be hand
delivered via the Harris employees
that are working in Mississippi.

Initiator: Karl Robinson, green shirt on the far right.



Gathering of the goods: Gloria Kimmel, Andy Cisar, Tim Allen, Lorry Light





Driver: Jerry Mayo



Receiving end: Tom Flemming





Shane Stockstill, Rob Lightcap, Tom Fleming





Shane Stockstill & Brian Skeldon setting up the computers for use.



In spite of hurricane Wilma putting a short delay in our endeavor, HERO coordinators, Harris retiree's Association and Harris employees who volunteered their time and effort for this campaign are all real HERO's and should be recognized for it. A huge thanks to everyone. Special recognition goes to key persons such as: Melissa Burgos-Abbot, Caroline Combass, Gloria Kimmel, Lorry Light, Nick Bahorich, Tom Flemming and Karl Robinson for playing a large part in getting this job done!