

All Around News

Hurricane Report

Deb Kornegay, RACC

The Region 8 Hurricane Fund was proud to be able to help a Mississippi athlete and her family get back on their feet. Please see letter below.

May 31, 2007

To Deb and everyone who donated and helped with the Katrina fund,

I want to thank you all for being so generous and helping those in need after hurricane Katrina. I wanted to let you know how much you helped a family in my gym.

Their home was seriously damaged, to the point you could stand in the house and see the sky. It was in no shape for anyone to live in, but the mom stayed to try and save what they had and get it fixed. She did collect some insurance money for the house, not enough to fix it, but then unfortunately she was taken advantage of. Some people took her money to fix the roof but did not finish it. Finally a group helped her get it fixed where her daughter could come home. She is a single mom with two children and the father has never really helped anyway, but after the hurricane he disappeared. She was left with a house without the whole roof, very little money, no job, no help and had to send her two children to North Carolina so they would be taken care of. After Katrina, she had no work and it was mostly a waiting game for the insurance adjuster to come by. Finally, money had just run out. She worked when she could and her son worked to help pay the bills, but they just couldn't keep up.

It was to the point of losing their home and car when I learned of how severe the situation was. I then contacted Deb to see if the Katrina fund could help. I can't even begin to tell you how much this lady appreciated that. Her house mortgage and car notes were caught up and even paid some ahead. They were planning to move to North Carolina and move in with family because it was all being repossessed that week. She is now working again, her son just graduated from high school so he is also helping more and I'm going to help with her daughter who is on my team. Hopefully now they can get their lives back on track and not worry from day to day if they are going to have a house to live in. They now come in the gym with a smile and appear as if a miracle has happened.

Which the truth is, a miracle did happen. That miracle was all of you who were kind enough to help others in a time of need. She thanks me over and over again, and I just tell her, "I just asked for the help." All of you are the ones who really helped. Her daughter was in North Carolina for six months and came back to us and got right back in the gym. She was about to compete level 5 when she left, she came back and could hardly do anything, because she did not get to go to a gym there. She worked her way back and scored out of level 5 and 6 right away and is now a level 7. She is such a great young lady and loves gymnastics. We are all very thankful for your generosity.

Cindy Wallace
Lanier's Gymnastics

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Debby Kornegay, RACC

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