

## **MEDIA INVITATION**

November 15, 2012

### **Lowcountry Donations Ready for Transport to Hurricane Sandy Victims**

*Supplies collected for Charleston Cares, in cooperation with Operation Southern Hospitality*

**Media Opportunity:** Media is invited to come between 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 15 at the Charleston Area Convention Center (Exhibit Hall C) in North Charleston to get photos/video of volunteers sorting of donated items.

Since the local effort was announced by area officials last week, residents have been donating supplies to 63 drop-off sites to help those affected by Hurricane Sandy. Local agencies and municipalities are working together to coordinate the collection and delivery of donated items. At the Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston, Charleston County's Emergency Management Department is coordinating the sorting, packing and loading of supplies into containers to be transported to New Jersey.

Today is the last day to drop off supplies, so it is not yet known how much has been donated by residents. But as of yesterday, they had already packed two containers full.

Trident United Way is coordinating volunteers to help with the sorting, packing and loading of the materials. There are currently enough volunteers scheduled to work, but officials will let the public know if and when more are needed.

#### **Background:**

- On Wednesday, Nov. 7, City of Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., County Council Chairman Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., City of North Charleston Mayor Pro-Tem Bob King, Town of Mount Pleasant Councilmember Elton Carrier and Town of Sullivan's Island Administrator Andy Benke announced the Charleston Cares: Sandy Relief program to help residents of the Hurricane Sandy area.
- The effort was organized in conjunction with Operation Southern Hospitality to provide area residents with two ways to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy: 1.) by donating supplies which will be taken to the area by a local business who will be able to ship the supplies by rail or 2.) by contributing to a fund for Sandy Relief to be used by towns and cities in the disaster area.
- The Coastal Community Foundation set up a fund to accept the contributions to the relief. Blackbaud generously developed a website, [www.coastalcommunityfoundation.org/sandy](http://www.coastalcommunityfoundation.org/sandy) and payment system for the fund. Donations received through this site will be used specifically for those cities and towns affected by this storm.

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

**Charleston County:** Jennie Davis Flinn, Charleston County Public Information Officer  
(843) 958-4012  
[jflinn@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:jflinn@charlestoncounty.org)

**City of Charleston:** Barbara W. Vaughn, Director, Media Relations  
(843) 724-3746  
[vaughnb@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:vaughnb@charleston-sc.gov)