

Georgia LTCO Activities to Assist Displaced Persons

- **Maintained** the most comprehensive **statewide list** of displaced residents of nursing homes in the State, combining reports from facilities, ombudsmen, and other agencies. As of 9/29/05, 139 Katrina evacuees and 45 Rita evacuees had been identified in Georgia nursing homes.
- **Coordinated information regarding the whereabouts of evacuees** in nursing homes with other appropriate agencies (e.g., federal Administration on Aging and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, state licensing and certification agency and emergency operations officials, State Long-Term Care Ombudsmen in Louisiana and Texas).
- **Evacuees received visits** from community ombudsman staff and volunteers to provide support and offer assistance. An example of assistance include:

One Louisiana citizen, recovering from a recent stroke, was evacuated from a Louisiana hospital to a Georgia hospital and then transferred to nursing home. She told an ombudsman that she desperately wanted to be back in Louisiana where her family had made arrangements for her to be in another hospital, closer to her extended family. Several daughters, a niece and a granddaughter had all found their way to Georgia to be near her, even though they could not afford the cost of gas, meals, or a motel room.

The ombudsman relentlessly worked to find donated airlift services for the resident, who was unable to travel by automobile, to return to Louisiana. The ombudsman also advocated with others in the community to help support the family. In a true community effort, the facility and its corporation provided the family with a night's lodging, food and gas money; then the Red Cross provided for a motel room for the remainder of their stay. Even the facility administrator and staff donated personally to help the family. Christian Ministries agreed to fly the resident back to Louisiana and arranged the flight for 9/21, but the plans were delayed due to evacuations for Hurricane Rita. The resident was airlifted, accompanied by one of her daughters, and arrived safely in Louisiana 9/26. Her family reports that they have all arrived safely and are thrilled to be back together.

- Assisted families and loved ones **seeking missing** nursing home and assisted living **residents**.
- **Coordinated** with disability advocates, mental health service providers, transportation providers, and a volunteer organization (Second Wind Dreams) **to assure that residents who were evacuees received needed services**, including community placements.