



# THE DEAF WELCOME FOUNDATION

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## Press Release

Garden City, NY. (September 7, 2005) – The Deaf Welcome Foundation, the new national charity for sign language media has partnered with LifeLinks LLC to make “Deaf Welcome” available across America by providing certified sign language interpreters at the touch of a button. This comes as good news to millions of Deaf Americans who face the daily challenge of trying to understand and be understood by individuals who do not know sign language but it’s even better news for the Deaf victims of “Hurricane Katrina.”

Thousands of Deaf lived in the ravaged areas hit by the Storm! LifeLinks and The Deaf Welcome Foundation are teaming up to establish high tech **DEAF WELCOME** locations with certified sign language interpreters available, over a computer web camera, 24/7, for Red Cross call centers, mobile crisis units, temporary housing facilities and the relief workers that are busy helping throughout the Katrina zone. Deaf welcome locations will allow relief workers and businesses to communicate with the Deaf in “their” language, at a moments notice.

Each Deaf Welcome location will find the video interpreting equipment unique. It is portable and can be moved anywhere there is a source of broadband, using a laptop or even a TV. Local certified sign language interpreters are being asked to contact the charity at [YesISign@DeafWelcome.org](mailto:YesISign@DeafWelcome.org) to join the Deaf Welcome team that has come to help from New York. Relief workers and businesses seeking to aid Deaf victims should contact the charity for the video interpreting equipment at [MakeDeafWelcome@DeafWelcome.org](mailto:MakeDeafWelcome@DeafWelcome.org).

Donations to The Deaf Welcome Foundation support Deaf Welcome call centers and the distribution of video interpreting equipment to hospitals, financial institutions, restaurants, hotels, retail stores, businesses, and shops. This comes at an ideal time as Deaf evacuees relocate throughout the country. Now, non-signers can make “Deaf Welcome” when they arrive in their new cities and towns because “equal access is a right, not a privilege.”

### CONTACT INFORMATION



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