

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**GOVERNOR BUSH ENCOURAGES ALL TO GIVE THE GIFT OF RECOVERY
TO FLORIDA'S HURRICANE WILMA SURVIVORS**

~Pledges to Florida Hurricane Relief Fund Pledges Top \$1 . 3 Million~

TALLAHASSEE - Governor Jeb Bush announced today that the Florida Hurricane Relief Fund has gathered more than \$1 . 3 million in pledges to help Floridians recover from the devastation of Hurricane Wilma.

“This holiday season, I encourage everyone to give the gift of recovery for neighbors in need,” said Governor Jeb Bush. “Give to the Florida Hurricane Relief Fund and help our Wilma survivors gets their lives, homes and communities back to normal.”

The Fund is fueled entirely by individual, corporate and foundation donations and covers needs not met by insurance, government assistance and other charitable organizations. Pledges to Hurricane Wilma recovery through the Fund include \$1 million from Home Depot, Altria \$100,000, Shell \$100,000, Washington Mutual \$75,000, BP \$25,000, and Pearson Education \$10,000. Other corporate, association and individual pledges total \$51,611.14. Additionally, Sprint will send a message in their monthly statement asking customers to donate to the Fund.

It is anticipated initial grants will provide funding for roofing and housing repair for low and moderate-income individuals, assistance to farmworkers and poor families, and assistance to families financially dependent upon the fisheries industry - also hard hit by this season's hurricanes. For information on 2004 uses of the Fund, as well as the first-year audit of the Fund's performance, visit www.FLAHurricaneFund.org.

The Florida Hurricane Relief Fund was established by Governor Bush to help with recovery from the 2004 hurricane season and has become instrumental in recovery for the 2005 season. It is managed by nonprofit Volunteer Florida Foundation and all donations are tax deductible. To donate securely via the Internet, visit www.FLAHurricaneFund.org < <http://www.flahurricanefund.org/> > , or call 1-800-825-3786.

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