

To the friends of Area Corvette Clubs:

Thank you for your interest in supporting the Downtown Infant Shelter located at First Baptist Church - Baton Rouge, Louisiana. As you may know, there are many shelters operating in Baton Rouge. Our church in cooperation with four other downtown churches (1st United Methodist, St. James Episcopal, 1st Presbyterian) has opened a shelter specifically for healthy mothers and healthy babies from birth to six months. The majority of our evacuees to date have been mothers and babies sent to us from our area hospitals. We are attempting to provide a clean and safe environment for the newborns to stay while their immunity systems become stabilize. We have volunteers that work on finding family members in other states and finding more permanent housing situations. We currently do not know how long we will be operating. We assume the need will be there as long as there are temporary shelters in Baton Rouge with pregnant moms giving birth in our area hospitals.

Our church is 125 years old. In former years, our church had a very large membership and the church facilities were built to accommodate the membership. In more recent years, the membership has declined and large parts of our facilities have not been in use. We have turned all the unused small Sunday School rooms into individual housing for each mom and family. We are attempting to operate without the FEMA and Red Cross assistance because once they become involved they mandate how your facility will be used and the duration.

We have received an outpouring of donations in terms of clothing, diapers and formula. We are now struggling with issues of where to store the mass quantities. Your financial contributions will be greatly appreciated. There are needs that only financial contributions can meet such as the increased electric bills, gasoline costs for operating church vans to shuttle people to government offices, food costs for feeding everyone, phone bills for the evacuees to make long distance calls attempting to find family members and new homes in other states. Another area is plane tickets -- The airlines have a set a price for evacuees that is low. We have several residence wanting to get to other family in NY, Miami, etc. These are only a few that have been identified.

Whatever assistance you are willing to give will be greatly appreciated. Be assured that the staff of FBC - Baton Rouge will be good stewards of whatever your groups choose to donate. I am Kim McGee, daughter in law of Sue and John McGee of Nashville Corvette Club. My husband and I have been members of this church for 10 years. If you have any questions, please contact me.

In HIS Service,
Kim McGee

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