

### OFFICE OF STATE TREASURER DENISE L. NAPPIER

# **NEWS**

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NAPPIER ENCOURAGES CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS TO CHECK TREASURY'S "BIG LIST" TO FIND MONEY

#### "Found Money" Can Aid Hurricane Relief Efforts

State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier today urged charitable and aid organizations to check the Treasury's "Big List" of unclaimed assets to see if the state is holding money that can help their hurricane relief efforts.

The Treasurer's Office has already identified several organizations that have unclaimed funds, and has contacted those organizations in an effort to get the money back to them to support their work during this devastating catastrophe along the country's Gulf Coast. Nappier said that charitable organizations can check the Treasury website, nameitandclaimit.org, or call the Treasury's Unclaimed Property Division directly at 1-800-618-3404 or 860-702-3014.

"With so many service organizations stretched beyond capacity in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and with so many displaced families whose homes and lives have been torn apart, we are trying to do whatever we can to help," said Treasurer Nappier. "We are searching our databases, and have already identified several charitable and aid organizations. As our efforts continue, we are encouraging organizations to call us to see if the state has money that they can reclaim, which can then be put to use to get help to where it is most needed."

Nappier said that among the organizations already contacted are the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, AmeriCares, United Way, Save the Children and Habitat for Humanity. Thus far, in excess of \$27,000 has been identified as funds that can be returned to these charitable organizations.

The State Treasurer's Office collects and safeguards cash and other financial assets that have been unclaimed for a period of generally three years. The assets, called "unclaimed property," include dormant balances in savings and checking accounts, unredeemed stocks, bonds and mutual fund shares, unreturned security deposits, and uncashed checks, such as insurance benefits, commissions or wages. Financial assets due to charitable organizations can include all of the above, as well as vendor checks, particularly from hospitals and related service organizations and uncashed checks, such as insurance benefits.

Charitable organizations can call the Treasurer's Office Corporate Claims Coordinator, Lisa Monroe, at 860-702-3014 to find out if the Treasury has unclaimed assets in the name of the organization, and to begin an expedited claims process.

Nappier also commended Treasury staff members who are stepping up to make personal financial contributions to hurricane relief efforts – approximately \$4,000 thus far – as part of an office-wide effort to respond to the tragic circumstances facing Gulf region families.

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