Rice international students and scholars quickly stepped up to the plate during our time of crisis with the victims of Hurricane Katrina, by raising $12,069 in just one week for the American Red Cross. This amount far exceeded any previous expectation, given that for many Rice internationals, money can be tight and the majority live on a stipend.

The donations included 272 participants from 48 countries around the world. Kanglin Wang, a doctoral student from Electrical & Computer Engineering, found information that Compass Bank would match donations dollar-for-dollar. Therefore, after sponsorship from Paul Fisher of Pinnacle Student Insurance, Apartment Locators, two anonymous donors who each donated $1 for each person who participated, and donations from many Rice international students and scholars, the total donations were doubled.

The participants signed a banner, which had been made by the Rice’s IT Help Desk. It was covered with written well-wishes, signatures, and names of countries from all over the world (including every continent except Antarctica) and was posted in the Reliant Center on Thursday, September 8, 2005, home to 7000+ evacuees.

Words of heart-felt concern for the victims, and appreciation to participate, was expressed by all who came to the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) to donate money and sign the banner with their name and country. One postdoctoral researcher from Poland brought in money collected by his three children, apart from his and his wife’s donation. Another postdoc from India said that each year in honor of his anniversary, he donates to a charity. He said he did not have to think about what he’d donate to, as this was the perfect opportunity for him.

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The president of the Aegean Club brought an envelope full of checks from Greek student club members. The Graduate Student Association (GSA) donated money as well, and international postdocs and students carried the banner around campus to solicit donations and signatures from Rice administration and faculty.

The outpouring of international support at a time of national distress is an inspiration to its hearers. When news of offers for help from countries around the world was reported to the U.S. Department of State, we took note. No less is one touched by individual expressions of support when they come from internationals in the Rice community.

**OISS Katrina Relief Fundraising Close-Ups**

- Raised $12,069 for the American Red Cross in one week
- 272 people participated
- 48 countries were represented on the banner and fundraiser.
- Outside participation included 5 outside sponsors:
  a) Compass Bank matched our funds dollar-for-dollar. Note: Compass Bank managers expressed that they were extremely impressed by the collected amount, and in such a short time, b) Paul Fisher with Pinnacle Student Insurance, c) Apartment Locators, and d) 2 anonymous donors who each donated $1 for each person who donated.
- Some Rice administrators and faculty also participated in our fundraising effort.
- Clubs such as Aegean Club, GSA, ISAR, RCSSC, and others organized within themselves in order to increase participation.
- Rice internationals posted the banner at the Reliant Center on Thursday (9/8/05), home to 7000+ evacuees from Louisiana.
- The banner was packed with names, countries, and well-wishes for the evacuees from Louisiana.

To donate, please visit Compass Bank for matched donations or go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)