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Suddes Partners Helps the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana Rebuild After Hurricane Katrina

ATLANTA – Suddes Partners, an Atlanta based strategic planning and fundraising consulting firm has been contracted by the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana to coordinate all resource development activities to assist in refocusing its ministries to the region and in repairing/rebuilding many of the 53 congregations and 22 schools in the Diocese that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

“There is no question our community and the Diocese of Louisiana have been forever changed—but there is no question that through God’s grace, we will persevere and ensure this change is for the positive,” stated the Rt. Rev’d Charles E. Jenkins, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana.

Three major initiatives the Diocese will have a positive impact on are: promoting racial and social equality in Louisiana; actively seeking out and serving the needs of the community—physically, mentally, and spiritually; and enabling economic sustainability through community redevelopment efforts.

“The destruction within the Diocese has been significant, but not just in physical damage to the facilities,” said John M. Suddes, President of Suddes Partners. “We commend Bishop Jenkins and the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana for wanting to take a leadership role in the redevelopment of New Orleans. It would be very easy to just look inward to your own needs, but the Diocese is looking out to the needs of the entire community—wanting to be an agent for change.”

As a leader in the struggling region, the diocese’s first priority was to relieve the suffering and provide basic necessities for those in need—congregation members and non-members alike. The Episcopal Church has been in the forefront of an immediate response to the immense needs of the displaced—opening their churches, homes, and hearts to those affected—as well as providing financial resources.

“Agencies such as FEMA, and our own Episcopal Relief and Development, have provided very generous support to meet the immediate needs of the New Orleans community, but they do not provide resources to help us rebuild our Diocese—and we must ensure our work continues,” said Bishop Jenkins. “Our rebuilding needs will have to be met through generous support from our worldwide Episcopal family, corporations, foundations, and private individuals.”

Specific funding needs and priorities are currently being finalized. “To this point, assistance has come primarily from individuals, churches, and other Dioceses who graciously reached out to provide support,” commented Suddes. “As the Diocese’s vision for the future is finalized, along with a detailed funding strategy to achieve this vision, we look forward to proactively beginning implementation of the plan immediately after the first of the year.”

“We are thankful to have the leadership of Suddes Partners, especially in this very trying time,” commented the Rt. Rev’d Charles E. Jenkins, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. “Their team has put forth great effort and provided great leadership—of what is a very complex issue. Together, in a short period of time, we have developed a multi-phased funding strategy to get our Diocese back on its feet.”

Contributions can be made directly to the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana by calling 225-387-5141, or contacting Tony Alvarez at Suddes Partners, Project Manager for the campaign, at 770-698-0007 or talvarez@suddespartners.com.

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About Suddes Partners

Suddes Partners is a development consulting firm that partners with non-profit organizations to meet their fundraising needs. Whether an organization needs strategic leadership and expertise to complement its development office, or support through on-the-ground implementation of a capital campaign—Suddes Partners can ensure its clients reach their maximum fundraising potential. For more information, please visit www.suddespartners.com.