



**For immediate release**

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**Foundation managing \$100 million rig relief program**

*BP contribution will be used to write financial hardship grants to deepwater rig workers*

Baton Rouge, La. – Under a request from BP, the Gulf Coast Restoration and Protection Foundation, a support organization of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, will make grants to rig workers who are suffering financial hardship under a federal moratorium on drilling in deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

**The Foundation will provide more details at a press conference 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 2, 2010. The event will be held at Baton Rouge Area Foundation headquarters, 402 N. Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, La. Information on video streaming of the press conference over the Web will be available Monday morning at BRAF.org.**

In June, President Barack Obama suggested BP contribute \$100 million to assist people working on 33 rigs. BP is donating that sum to the Gulf Coast Restoration and Protection Foundation. From the \$100 million, the Foundation will make the financial hardship grants.

“We are establishing guidelines to provide the greatest relief to hard-working people who are under financial duress from decisions outside their control,” said John G. Davies, CEO and President of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

BP contacted the Foundation three weeks ago to deliberate the hardship grant program. The Foundation anticipates releasing guidelines of the charitable program by mid-August and expects to begin taking applications Sept. 1.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation’s 46-year history of assisting people in South Louisiana and around the world includes \$232 million in grants to nonprofits.

After Katrina, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation raised and distributed more than \$45 million, first to feed and shelter people, then to underwrite long-term needs to build a more equitable Louisiana. An important part of the Katrina work was creating and managing employee assistance funds, which distributed more than \$8.5 million in aid to displaced workers of 16 companies, including Emeril Lagasse Restaurants, Oreck Vacuums, Whitney National Bank and McIlhenny Co., the maker of Tabasco pepper sauce.

Information about the rig relief grant program will be posted, as it becomes available, at [GCRPF.org](http://GCRPF.org) and [RigReliefGrants.org](http://RigReliefGrants.org).

**About the Gulf Coast Restoration and Protection Foundation:** The GCRPF was created to serve the Gulf Coast after the BP spill. It's a support organization of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, which makes the world better in two ways. One, BRAF connects fund donors – philanthropists – to worthwhile projects and nonprofits. With them, BRAF has granted more than \$232 million over 46 years to give people a chance to prosper. BRAF also takes on projects that change the direction of South Louisiana, such as revitalizing downtowns, spearheading the building of the Shaw Center for the Arts, supporting innovations in public schools and reclaiming inner-city neighborhoods.