

## 'Bridging the Gulf to Feed Our Friends'

# Area restaurants, businesses provide hope and relief to hurricane victims

By BRIGITTE SURETTE  
SPECIAL TO THE MOULTRIE NEWS

We've watched horrific images over the past two weeks of news reports depicting the devastation that Hurricane Katrina caused our neighbors in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Katrina is being called the most devastating natural disaster to ever hit the United States, and analysts are predicting that damages will cost upwards of 100 billion dollars to rebuild the Gulf Coast to what it once was, if that can even be done. The images we see every day are unbelievably disturbing and look as if they're being broadcast from a third-world country. All of us, in some way, have been affected by the tragedy, and the aftermath will continue to affect our lives for years to come. We wonder what we can do to bring some hope and relief to the overwhelming human suffering that is happening so very close to home. The victims, now being referred to as refugees, have suffered loss on such an enormous scale that it's difficult to comprehend.

It's not only the responsibility

of local and federal governments to rebuild and reconnect these areas, but ours, as a people, to help by whatever means we can. As in world disasters in the past, our citizens are reaching out in different ways to help those directly affected by Hurricane Katrina.



PHOTO BY BRIGITTE SURETTE  
Ciaran Duffy

One of those citizens is Ciaran Duffy, head chef at Tristan's restaurant in downtown Charleston. Duffy, so moved by the tragedy, started a movement he's dubbed, "Bridging the Gulf to Feed Our Friends." Duffy and his family moved from Atlanta to Mount Pleasant about a year

ago. Duffy is originally from Dublin, Ireland, but has lived on the East Coast since he was 19.

"There was no one thing that prompted me to start this," Duffy said. "I, like all of us, watched what the people (victims) were going through, and I knew that I had to do something so I started talking to friends and chefs and suppliers from other area restaurants and I came up with the idea for all restaurants and businesses to donate 10 percent of their entire sales to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. The response from the people here has been inspiring and overwhelming. Everyone

See Benefit, 6B

## On Vacation with the Moultrie News



In June, choir members of Christ Our King Catholic Church from Mount Pleasant traveled to New York City. Here they are pictured in front of Blessed Sacrament Church, where they sang for mass.

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