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*Executive Director*

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*Assistant Director*

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AAMR members:

On behalf of ARC/Florida and its membership, I want to express our sincere appreciation for your efforts and contributions to people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the agencies that support them who were adversely affected by the recent storms in Florida. ARC/Florida and our 42 local chapters sincerely appreciate all the kindness and generosity that has been spread to us after the devastation caused by Hurricane Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne. We have received over 181 donations from organizations and individuals to date.

AAMR has been a very big supporter in helping to get donations to aid individuals with developmental disabilities and those that support them in Florida. As of December 9, 2004, AAMR has raised \$7,322.00 to aid those in need along with other non-monetary donations of canned goods, clothes, and personal items.

All donations have gone towards rebuilding lives impacted by the storms. Many individuals' living situations have been improved but others are still trying to recover and your donations are still at work. In some communities, consumers lost all their possessions, their homes, and apartments. Many are continuing to experience trauma and fears from the experience that will take time to heal along with lots of love, understanding and support. Agencies serving people with developmental disabilities lost buildings, equipment was damaged, supplies were ruined, and some staff have yet to return to work due to crises with their personal living situations.

However, the spirit and passion that initially steered many of us to this field in the first place remains strong. Our commitment to our constituents has not wavered. In fact, the response received from people all over the country including many members of AAMR has acted to enhance and strengthen our resolve to work together as part of the larger community dedicated to supporting, serving, and advocating for people with developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

John C. Hall  
Executive Director