

December 5, 2005

Support letter

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to report on some very positive experiences during the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma.

I am the single parent of a 14 year old autistic, Williams Syndrome child. My son is also partially paralyzed and has cardiac complications. As a result of the efforts of the ADA Hurricane Preparedness Task Force which includes many agencies involved in meeting the needs of people with developmental and physical challenges, I was contacted a couple of days after Wilma to find out how everything was and if Kevin or I needed anything. This did not happen after Charlie when I was without electricity for a week and no one from any agency contacted me. Lee County Parks and Recreation offered respite which helped so much: Kevin cannot run outside and play with other children or really participate in any unsupervised activity. With school not in session for a week, this was a great service.

I cannot stress enough how much help the effort made by this task force was and how valuable the form developed by the task force was after Hurricane Wilma. State and Local EOC offices do an incredibly good job, but they are not, by their own admission, able to meet many of the needs during and after a storm that families like mine have.

Thank you for your consideration and attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Lynn James
Parent of a child with behavioral,
developmental, and physical challenges.
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