



## Tampa Bay Krewes Kare Corporate Report



September 2005 - November 2008



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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

***“Krewes Kare volunteers will gather and distribute emergency relief supplies to help victims of hurricanes in the Southeast United States in conjunction with Angel Flight Southeast®, in areas that may be inaccessible to larger relief agencies.”  
(Pursuant to IRS Regulations governing 501c3 charitable organizations).***

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Yvonne Painton, President</b>	<b><i>Krewe of Pair O' Dice</i></b>
<b>Lynn Barfield, Vice President</b>	<b><i>Thieves of San Lorenzo</i></b>
<b>Christie Hess, Secretary</b>	<b><i>Krewe of Pair O' Dice</i></b>
<b>Froment Gonzalez, CPA, CFO</b>	<b><i>Krewe of Hillsborough</i></b>
<b>Susan Long, Treasurer</b>	<b><i>Angel Flight Southeast</i></b>
<b>Visann Friscia, Media Relations</b>	<b><i>Krewe of Pair O' Dice</i></b>
<b>Lou Schuyler, Public Information Officer</b>	<b><i>Krewe of Sant' Yago</i></b>
<b>Ken Donofrio, Marketing/Web Master</b>	<b><i>Krewe of Pair O' Dice</i></b>
<b>Carol Ferguson, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>The Bonney-Read Krewe</i></b>
<b>Steve Plotz, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>Krewe of The Black Swan</i></b>
<b>Joni Cusimano, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>Krewe of Grace O' Malley</i></b>
<b>Genie West, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>Thieves of San Lorenzo/Grace O' Malley</i></b>
<b>Mark Bose, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>Rough Riders/F-Troop</i></b>
<b>Debi Tomlinson, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>Krewe of the Caribbean Cowboys</i></b>
<b>Charlie Macheski, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>Krewe of Hillsborough/Spirit of Cigar City</i></b>
<b>Brenda Ellarbee Macheski, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>Krewe of Hillsborough/Spirit of Cigar City</i></b>
<b>Chrisanne Schock, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>Krewe of Pair O' Dice</i></b>
<b>Maria Howell, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>Thieves of San Lorenzo/Krewe of Shamrock</i></b>
<b>Betsy Lee, Director-at-Large</b>	<b><i>Krewe of the Caribbean Cowboys</i></b>

## **The Founding of Krewes Kare**

The Inter-Krewe Council (IKC) is an organization composed of representatives from each of the 60+ Krewes in the Tampa Bay area.

The IKC serves as a coordinating body and information liaison for all of the Krewes and creates a forum for the expression of ideas and input relating to the various functions the Krewes held throughout the year. In addition, the IKC strives to promote a spirit of camaraderie among the krewes and their members.

In September 2005, immediately following the devastation to the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina, the IKC Chair and Vice-Chair, Carol Ferguson and Yvonne Painton, were deluged with questions from representatives of various krewes, asking what the IKC member krewes could do to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. While the two IKC Officers were forming with a plan, Christie Hess (Krewe of Pair O' Dice) contacted Yvonne to ask if their Krewe might be interested in a joint venture with Angel Flight Southeast to provide immediate emergency supplies to hurricane relief workers in the Mississippi Gulf Coast area. Yvonne brought this idea to Carol and they quickly called an emergency IKC meeting to discuss the partnership idea with the heads of all the IKC Krewes. The idea was unanimously accepted and a proposal was made to create an independent, non-profit, all-volunteer entity that would include representatives from the various Krewes in the area.

This group adopted the name "Krewes Kare," and they decided that the best way to help would be to act as a first response organization, gathering donated goods and providing immediate help to areas that may be inaccessible to larger relief agencies.

To accomplish this, Angel Flight Southeast would alert Krewes Kare regarding the items of immediate need for areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. An email would then be sent to each IKC krewe, which would collect or purchase those items and drop them off at designated locations. As soon as enough supplies were collected, they would be picked up and flown out by volunteer pilots of Angel Flight Southeast.

Shortly after Krewes Kare was formed, requests from Angel Flight Southeast began to come in, and volunteers got busy gathering the supplies and getting them loaded on board the planes. As the workload became greater, more volunteers from various krewes answered the call to help. Meanwhile, Krewes Kare members began creating a structure and organization for this new entity.

Krewes Kare volunteers worked throughout the fall of 2005, gathering and shipping supplies to victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. When that year's hurricane season wrapped up and Angel Flight Southeast reported that the need for immediate emergency relief had subsided, Krewes Kare volunteers sorted the remaining collected items— clothing, shoes, household goods, etc. — and sent many to Mississippi via Angel Flight. They then drove a trailer-load of supplies, including a generator, to an area in Deerfield Beach, Florida, left devastated by Hurricane Wilma.

During the lulls between Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, the first official organizational meeting of Krewes Kare was held and a Board of Directors elected. Plans were made for the preparation of ongoing relief efforts, and the process of applying for 501c3 status began.



## **ANGEL FLIGHT SOUTHEAST®**

Founded more than 20 years ago by Mary Webb, a retired pilot, Angel Flight Southeast® organizes free medical and humanitarian flights for people throughout the Southeastern United States. It is one of the seven all-volunteer pilot organizations across the United States that comprise the group known as Angel Flight America®, organized in the latter part of the 1990s.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Angel Flight America® received a federal grant to start the Angel Flight Homeland Security Air Transportation System. It was tasked with flying missions to deliver personnel, medical supplies, and other cargo to areas stricken by natural disaster or terrorist incident. Angel Flight America works in conjunction with other relief agencies to coordinate their missions.

Angel Flight Southeast® is composed of approximately 1,500 volunteer pilots and “Earth Angels” (non-pilots) who freely donate their time to ensure the mission is accomplished. Headed by President and CEO, Deborah Deal, Angel Flight Southeast® flew nearly 600 missions during the first two weeks of October 2005 in support of those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Angel Flight America® coordinated more than 2,600 flights directly related to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. Volunteers routinely put in 16- to 18-hour days to make sure that all requests for assistance were handled promptly.

The Krewes Kare logo, created by webmaster Ken Donofrio (Krewe of Pair O’ Dice), incorporates the Angel Flight Southeast® logo within its design. The logo denotes a synergistic relationship between Krewes Kare and Angel Flight Southeast®, creating the ability to deliver immediate relief to any area in the Southeast United States affected by hurricanes.

## THE 2005 HURRICANE SEASON

### HURRICANE KATRINA

**Hurricane Katrina** was the first Category 5 hurricane of the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Katrina formed over the Bahamas on August 23, 2005, and crossed southern Florida as a Category 1 storm before strengthening rapidly in the Gulf of Mexico and becoming the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Gulf.

The storm made its second landfall as an extremely large Category 3 storm on the morning of August 29, along the Central Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi.

The storm surge caused catastrophic damage along the coastlines of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The levees around New Orleans were breached by the surge, flooding about 80% of the city. Damage was reported well inland, devastating nearly 90,000 square miles, an area almost as large as the United Kingdom.

The costliest hurricane in United States history, **Hurricane Katrina** killed at least 1,417 people and is the deadliest hurricane since the 1928 "Okeechobee Hurricane."

Hurricane Katrina left an estimated three million people without electricity and displaced more than 1.5 million people.

### HURRICANE RITA

**Hurricane Rita** was the second Category 5 hurricane of the '05 season. The storm first struck Florida and went on to hit Texas and Louisiana. The storm surge also reopened some of the levee breaches caused by **Hurricane Katrina** a month earlier, reflooding parts of New Orleans and adding to the scope of the disaster. At one point a peak wind gust of 235 MPH was recorded. (Moved from next paragraph)

The initial death toll was 6 people, with 113 deaths indirectly attributed to **Hurricane Rita**.

### HURRICANE WILMA

**Hurricane Wilma** was the twenty-first named hurricane and third Category 5 of the record-breaking '05 season.

Making several landfalls, its most destructive effects were felt on the Yucatán Peninsula, in Cuba, and in Florida, causing at least 62 known deaths. **Hurricane Wilma** affected eleven countries, with winds or rainfall causing untold amounts of damage.

## **KREWES KARE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ITS FIRST FEW MONTHS SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER, 2005**

Started as an ad-hoc offshoot of the Inter-Krewe Council, Krewes Kare has had some impressive accomplishments to date. Hitting the ground running in September 2005, this group, made up of members of the IKC Member Krewes in the Tampa Bay area, has:

- Formed a non-profit volunteer organization called "Krewes Kare" to include all of the member krewes of the Inter-krewe Council.
- Formed an alliance with Angel Flight Southeast® to deliver emergency supplies to hurricane victims.
- Designed the Krewes Kare logo and developed a web site for Krewes Kare.
- During its first week of operation, collected supplies that were donated by various krewes and the general public, loaded four planes with commercial chainsaws, medicine, cleaning supplies, fresh produce, and water, and delivered them to an area near Gulfport, Mississippi, devastated by Hurricane Katrina.
- Within an eight-hour period, helped to establish a tent city for more than one-thousand people living in a field outside of Biloxi who had no shelter of any kind following Hurricane Katrina and facing Hurricane Rita. According to Angel Flight Southeast pilots, Krewes Kare volunteers were re-named "Angels from Tampa" by grateful Biloxi residents.

During the weeks that followed Hurricane Katrina, Krewes Kare continued to raise donations and send flights to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and they:

- Brokered a large donation of medical supplies and equipment and contacted The United States Air Force and the Louisiana Hospital Association for help in to delivering the massive donation.
- Held weekly Collection Events at local businesses in the Tampa Bay area.
- Sent nearly 30 planeloads of supplies via Angel Flight Southeast.
- Helped the Humane Society of Tampa Bay and SPCA of St. Petersburg with donations for pets displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

And in the months that followed, Krewes Kare continued to make a difference:

- On October 27<sup>th</sup>, after Hurricane Wilma hit Florida, Eric Arens (Krewe of Shamrock) went to Deerfield Beach to locate his mother. Armed with a donated Krewes Kare generator and a chainsaw, Eric was able to clear the street where his mother lived and then hook the generator up for some of her elderly neighbors, one of whom required power for an oxygen tank needed to keep him alive.
- On November 19<sup>th</sup>, the week before Thanksgiving, Krewes Kare held a donation drive at the Columbia Restaurant.
- The day after Thanksgiving, Krewes Kare volunteers sorted remaining supplies to go to Mississippi and/or South Florida.
- The following Monday, Krewes Kare filled a huge and drove the supplies to a church in Deerfield Beach for distribution to its parishioners.
- Krewes Kare held a formal meeting and elected an eleven-member Board of Directors.
- Krewes Kare Board Members voted to make Krewes Kare an ongoing volunteer organization, and application for 501c3 status was initiated.

## **KREWES KARE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006 - 2007**

In February 2006, the Krewes Kare Board held a meeting to come up with ideas for fundraising in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season. The idea of hosting "The World's Largest Hurricane Party" was unanimously approved. Finding a location to stage this party was a challenge, and after six weeks of searching, Krewes Kare nearly gave up on the idea. But with the deadline only 5 ½ weeks away, the Egypt Temple Shriners came up with a perfect solution, offering the use of their waterfront park, "Hooper's Hollow," in Tampa.

With very little time to plan, the Board was still determined to move forward with the Hurricane Party plans and once again, the IKC member krewes and the good people of the Tampa Bay area came through. Within just a few weeks, Krewes Kare accomplished the following:

- Had an outdoor venue "Hooper's Hollow" donated by the Egypt Shrine of Tampa.
- Had 600 t-shirts donated
- Had 5 local restaurants and caterers each donate enough food for 500 people
- Had signs donated
- Had advertising donated
- Had soft drinks donated
- Had a member of the Tampa Police Department provide security, along with private security details
- Had wine and liquor donated
- Had 3 bands donate their time for the party
- Had pallets of bottled water donated
- Had beer donated, along with a refrigerated truck to store and serve beer
- Had ice donated
- Had paper goods donated
- Had volunteers for everything involved
- Had custom-printed cups and other souvenirs donated
- Had a flatbed truck donated for use as a stage

Thanks to the kind hearts of many businesses in the Tampa Bay area and the volunteers from the various Krewes, the party was a huge success. A total of 518 attendees paid \$20 each to party all afternoon for a great cause, and Krewes Kare raised more than \$14,000 for hurricane relief preparedness. Because of such generous donations, nearly 100% of the money raised went to the relief effort.

In June 2006, during a meeting to nominate a slate of Officers for the 2007 IKC Board of Directors, Past IKC Chair Jim Carver (Krewe of Venus), expressed the pride that he and Founding IKC Chair Carl Hall (Krewe of Neptune) felt about the formation and accomplishments of Krewes Kare. He then made a motion that, in his words, "Krewes Kare be taken to the next level and be added to the IKC by-laws as the official charity of the Inter-krewe Council." That motion was unanimously passed by the Past Chairs in attendance, and the proposed by-law change was presented to the IKC Membership at the June 22, 2006, meeting, where it was overwhelmingly approved by the IKC Membership.

Sheer luck, and a little help from the battle of the wind phenomena known as "El Niño" and "La Niña," made for an unexpectedly quiet 2006 Hurricane Season. Knowing that this lull was highly unusual, the Krewes Kare Board moved forward into 2007, vowing to be prepared for the upcoming storm season. IKC krewes continued to be strong contributors, either holding events to benefit Krewes Kare or at least making donations from their individual charitable events.

In 2007, Krewes Kare became the host of the annual Knight Parade Krash Party and successfully netted nearly \$6,000 to add to their relief preparedness fund.

Later in February 2007, the Krewes Kare Board members voted unanimously to hold the 2nd Annual "World's Largest Hurricane Party." At the first planning meeting, which drew more than 60 volunteers from various IKC Krewes, President Yvonne Painton set a goal to double the first year's attendance and fundraising efforts.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "World's Largest Hurricane Party" was held May 12, 2007, accompanied by smoke and haze from the wildfires burning in Georgia and Florida. While the smoke was a factor in limiting attendance, the party was still deemed a success, with even more donations of goods and services from Bay Area businesses and IKC Member Krewes, and it raised nearly \$9,000.00.

As of September 24, 2007, Krewes Kare had a total of \$47,569.39 in the bank, specifically earmarked for immediate hurricane relief supplies when the need arises. While proud of this accomplishment, Krewes Kare Board members are all too aware that we are still in the midst of the 2007 Hurricane Season, and the money won't last long when the next big storm hits.

## 2008

In 2008, Krewes Kare held another successful Knight Parade Krash Party and added another \$5,000.00 to its relief fund. Board Members were already planning for the next public event, - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "World's Largest Hurricane Party."

At the March, 2008 Inter-krewe Council Luncheon Meeting, Bridget Robertson from the Krewe of Agustina announced her krewe would be participating in the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" on April 5 and challenged other IKC Krewes to participate and compete in the effort to raise funds. Krewes Kare President Yvonne Painton accepted the challenge and assembled a team, led by Board Member Debi Tomlinson. The "Krewes Kare Relay Team" raised just under \$3,500.00 for the cause and was awarded a bronze pin for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place fundraising honor.

During planning discussions for the Hurricane Party, the Board voted to modify the event to include an Expo, as well, where community organizations and vendors could present information relevant to storm protection and damage prevention and repair. The "World's Largest Hurricane Expo & Party" was held May 3 at Zenda Grotto Temple & Hall. This site was chosen because it had both an indoor and outdoor venue, allowed more parking and had a much larger outdoor area. In addition, the facility had an air conditioned indoor stage and dance floor. This was a way of "buying insurance" in case we experienced inclement weather or smoke from brush fires as in 2007. As with previous Krewes Kare Hurricane Parties, nearly everything, including food, beverages, and entertainment was donated by the community. Krewes Kare raised over \$7,000.00 that afternoon and the Expo & Party was deemed another success.

Another new addition for 2008 was the "All-Krewe Chili Cook-off." The judges included local television celebrities and awarded First Place to Krewe of Bobbie C. Davis, Second Place was taken by Krewe of Columbus and coming in Third was the Spirit of Cigar City Krewe. The chili from all the entrants was fabulous and the judges barely suffered from any heartburn.

As we rolled in to the 2008 Hurricane Season, members of Krewes Kare saw several storms approach the Caribbean and threaten the Southeastern US but no serious storms until August when Hurricane Gustav barreled towards Louisiana. The Krewes Kare Board sprang into action after receiving calls from a fellow krewe member who had been trapped in Baton Rouge because of the devastation caused to that area. Using funds raised by their Knight Parade Krash Parties and World's Largest Hurricane Parties, volunteers arranged transportation with Angel Flight SE to Baton Rouge and then shopped for relief supplies.

Tropical Storm Hanna caused the planes and pilots of Angel Flight Southeast to be grounded for several days, so Krewes Kare volunteers adapted on the run. Krewes Kare Board Members provided trucks and a trailer to get the supplies to the stricken areas. After loading over \$11,000 dollars worth of generators, tarps, bottled water, weather radios, medicines, bandages, and food...they took a road trip to Louisiana to deliver those hurricane relief supplies.

Krewes Kare was honored by local TV station Fox 13 who read about the road trip via news release. Our organization was featured on the station's news segment titled "What's Right with Tampa Bay." This focused even more positive attention on all of the Krewes in Tampa Bay and hopefully increased awareness of our charitable organization.

For 2009, Krewes Kare finds a new home at the Italian Club in Ybor City where we will hold our Knight Parade Krash Party on February 14, and the next "World's Largest Hurricane Expo & Party." In keeping with the venue's theme, an all-krewe "Spaghetti Sauce Cook-off" is planned. We look forward to increased support from our local parade krewes and the community to help ensure both events are a huge success.

## **OUR FUTURE GOALS**

Krewes Kare has accomplished a lot in the short period of time it has been in existence, but there is still much to do.

The next ten to twenty years are forecast to be a very active hurricane cycle. Krewes Kare is preparing for all eventualities by focusing on these goals:

1. Encourage the involvement and participation of all of the 60+ Krewes in the Tampa Bay area in the planning and collection of supplies during hurricanes affecting the Southeastern United States.
2. Reach out to local corporations and enlist their aid in coordinating with their charitable relief efforts.
3. Maintain an ongoing relationship with the media, which will help generate public interest in Krewes Kare's efforts.
4. Secure a permanent storage facility, creating the ability to accept donations of supplies year-round.
5. Plan and implement a marketing campaign to make the public more aware of Krewes Kare and the fact that they can donate to Krewes Kare even if they are not krewe members.
6. Identify the skill sets of various Krewes Kare volunteers and determine how to best utilize them.
7. Research available grants and how to apply for them, which will help Krewes Kare facilitate a quicker response to the next disaster.
8. Involve more members of IKC Krewes, to guarantee the succession of the Krewes Kare Board of Directors.
9. Create an advisory board to oversee activities and ensure Krewes Kare complies with all laws and regulations.
10. Create a liaison with city, county, state, and federal government relief agencies in order to coordinate the efforts of Krewes Kare with the actions of the government agencies.
11. Maintain Krewes Kare as a separate entity, operating in conjunction with the IKC but using no IKC general operating funds for support.

## **SUMMARY**

Krewes Kare has accomplished an extraordinary amount of work in a short period of time, using all available resources.

That this has been an all-volunteer effort, dependent on a relatively small number of dedicated volunteers, is nothing short of amazing.

For an organization founded during a time of crisis, Krewes Kare, in conjunction with Angel Flight Southeast®, has provided an impressive amount of relief to a large portion of the population impacted by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

Our relationship with Angel Flight Southeast® only enhances the effectiveness of the Krewes Kare relief efforts. By implementing the goals detailed on the preceding page, Krewes Kare can become an important part of Homeland Security's civilian response initiative.

All the volunteers who have participated in the Krewes Kare effort can be proud of our accomplishments. By creating such a unique response to the suffering and need we saw, Krewes Kare truly personifies the American "can-do" spirit. We have shown the world how generous the people in the Tampa Bay area are, and we have won friends and admirers around the country.

Krewes Kare can rightfully take its place as one of those American success stories that have emerged during times of crisis. And we will continue to live up to our reputation as "the Angels from Tampa" for many years to come.