



## **Florida Credit Union League**

**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
For Further Information Contact:  
Mark Ivester—(850) 576-8171  
or 1-800-342-1266  
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### **TALLAHASSEE CREDIT UNION COMES TO AID OF HURRICANE EVACUEES**

Tallahassee—As the American Red Cross began to issue cash vouchers to Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Tallahassee a problem arose. It was Saturday and all the city's financial institutions would be closed, not only on Saturday, but Sunday and also Monday, Labor Day. Florida State Representative Lorraine Ausley (D-Tallahassee), who was at the Red Cross Tallahassee office, turned to the Florida Credit Union League's Executive Vice President, Aletta Shutes, for help. Shutes contacted FCUL President/CEO Guy Hood, who in turn, called Envision Credit Union President/CEO Ray Cromer. As a result, in an extraordinary move, Cromer agreed to open a branch, located in one of the city's Wal-Mart stores, for evacuees to bring their vouchers to and receive cash that would allow them to handle incidentals and expenses. After working out the logistics and finding enough volunteers to come to the branch and help, the Envision CU branch was ready to go.

According to Envision, the credit union assisted over 110 individuals and families from the Gulf Coast. "None of this would have been possible, of course," said Cromer, "without the spirit of cooperation and team work from a number of our crew members who volunteered to come in and open the office and render this service."

On hand to help during this event were: Nicole Girard, Assistant VP; Hollie Maddox, Vice President; Joyce Bartosik, Director of the Tallahassee Shared Service Facility; Becky Wheeler, Assistant VP; Jennifer Tyler, Assistant VP; Shawn Hermann, Manager of IT Services; Jim Giacobbe, Sr. VP, United Solutions Company; Rose Newsome, Head Cashier; Kathy Carnley, Controller; and Edith Griner, Sr. VP.

Representative Ausley was on hand at Envision CU to personally thank Cromer and his Envision CU staff for their willingness to give up their Sunday and holiday to help the hurricane victims.

Cromer added. "To a person who worked this weekend, we were the ultimate beneficiaries of the experience. It was the right and good thing to do, and we will continue to be involved in the effort."