

# KPC strives to help Katrina victims

*Single mother of two hopes she can relocate to Sedona*

By Sylvia Somerville

SPECIAL TO LARSON NEWSPAPERS

The ripple effects of Hurricane Katrina continue as Gulf Coast residents struggle to rebuild their lives, even as the rest of the country returns to life as usual.

Some of those ripples are making their way to Sedona.

"We thought that Sedona might want to adopt a family or two who want to relocate to Sedona and help them get back on their feet," said Miranda Coates, a Buddhist nun and member of Kunzang Palyul Chöling Buddhist group of Sedona, which has started a nonprofit Buddhist relief organization. "There are many people in Sedona who really want to do something to help, more than just sending a check to the Red Cross."

Several New Orleans residents are ready to pick up the pieces of their old life and start fresh in Sedona.

## Single mother of two

"There is no hope for life here," said Lisa Newson, a 30-year-old single mother of two who lives in St. Charles Parish in New Orleans.

She wants to begin a new life with her son, Jaycob, 7, and daughter, Emalee, 6, in a place far away from hurricanes and the memories of her former

## Series

The Kunzang Palyul Chöling Buddhist group of Sedona is currently raising money and awareness to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. Two New Orleans residents are looking to move to Sedona to get their life back in motion. KPC Sedona is trying to help them.

This is a two-part series on those residents. Today, writer Sylvia Somerville introduces Lisa Newson, a 30-year-old single mother of two and her children, Jaycob, 7, and Emalee, 6.

In Friday's issue, Somerville will introduce Karen Hammer, a single professional woman.

married life. She wants to live where she can get back on her feet.

There are no jobs in New Orleans these days for someone such as Newson, who has run a medical and dental office and is a trained dental technician. She can't even find a place to use her old skills as a paralegal.

Although she has temporarily returned to her old neighborhood in New Orleans to live while she finds a way to salvage what is left of her home and complete insurance paperwork, Newson is ready to leave New Orleans.

"I would like to fix up the house and get out," she said.

Newson is working odd jobs, such as painting and cleaning houses. She has found dead dogs and cats and hundreds of horses.

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Miranda Coates,

Buddhist nun and member of Kunzang Palyul Chöling Buddhist group of Sedona

Newson would like to relocate to Sedona.

"It's just so pretty in Sedona, and it seems so safe," she said, after a recent visit to Sedona, organized by Coates, whom she had met in the Phoenix Coliseum where Coates was volunteering at the time.

Newson managed to leave New Orleans by way of Dallas and Houston and wound up in Phoenix to find safe harbor with her mother.

Coates was struck with Newson's outgoing personality; her directness, honesty and humility; and her earnestness to make a new life for herself and her children.

Newson loved Sedona's small and friendly feeling and its proximity to her mother in Phoenix and friends in California from her Navy days. Newson spent 10 years in the Navy in San Diego.

Newson is confident that she can rebuild a life here, one in which her children will thrive. Both Jaycob and Emalee enjoy spending time outdoors.

"They grew up without a TV and Nintendo and love to ride their bicycles," Newson said. "They are very well behaved, and they get along well with

other children."

Jaycob is athletic. To build his self esteem, Newson enrolled her son in tae kwon do. He now not only has a new-found confidence but also a second-degree black belt. Jaycob also loves racing cars.

"He is a NASCAR fanatic," she said.

Emalee, on the other hand, is artistic. She goes to ballet classes and loves to dance.

"She's a girlie girl," Newson said. "She loves to have her toes painted and her hair done."

The Newson family has a big bond with its four cats, one is 16 years-old; two are 6 and one is 5. They are all de-clawed and have always been indoor cats.

"They are such a big support for us," Newson said. "I don't want to leave them behind."

Newson's wish list includes a job and a rent-free home for a year for herself, her two children and four de-clawed, house cats while she gets on her feet.

For more information, contact Sylvia Somerville, 204-9716. Donations can be sent to KPC, P.O. Box 1142, Sedona, AZ 86336. Please mark "Buddhist relief" in the memo area. KPC is a 501(c)(3) organization.