

Greater Black Nashville Chamber of Commerce

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Immediate RELEASE

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Katrina In Nashville– Nashville Black Chamber Sets Up Relief Fund To Support Its Members

Nashville, TN – September 12, 2005 – “Hope is what is necessary and what we are offering” says Greg Beard, owner of the Essense Day Spa on Jefferson Street in Nashville, TN. Essense Day Spa opened its doors to the Katrina survivors upon the request of Connie Denell of 92Q. In an effort to support its members, the Greater Nashville Black Chamber of Commerce has created a relief fund at Citizens Bank. It is called the Essense/92Q Relief Fund and is set up to offer financial assistance to those in need.

After going to Essense Day Spa to volunteer, Darren L. Johnson, Interim Executive Director of the Black Chamber wanted to offer some additional assistance to its members. “This is a community effort. Our role in this is simply to offer a way to pull dollars together to help continue this effort that Essense and 92Q started. We want this to extend beyond this crisis however,” says Johnson.

For those interested in contributing to the fund, please contact the Nashville Black Chamber at 615-876-9634. Tonya Buford is going to manage the fund, which will be used to pay for gas, transportation, food, rent for space to house the clothes, and any other expenses related specifically to this effort.

Another way to contribute is to attend the Nashville Black Chamber’s Annual Membership meeting. Minority business owners and members of the Nashville business community are encouraged to attend the Annual Membership meeting set for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2005 at the Essence Day Spa, 1511 Jefferson Street in Nashville. This historical meeting will be the official kick-off to a new direction for the Greater Nashville Black Chamber of Commerce. For more information on the GNBCC call 615-876-9634 or email them at info@nashvilleblackchamber.org. It is open to the public.