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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GRANT ESTABLISHES GRAND ISLE FIRST RESPONDERS ASSISTANCE FUND**

**GRAND ISLE, LA** – With a \$50,000 grant from the Bayou Community Foundation, the Friends of Grand Isle (FOGI) will create the First Responders Assistance Fund to provide financial assistance to Grand Isle’s first responders who suffered property damage from Hurricane Ida.

On August 29, 2021, Hurricane Ida made landfall as a Category 4 with winds of 150 mph and a storm surge of 8 to 15 feet. Every home and building on Grand Isle were impacted, from roof damage to entire structures being swept out to sea. Grand Isle’s first responders have suffered incredible personal loss with the total loss of their homes or significant damage to their homes. Many of them stayed while the hurricane hit the island, and have continued to serve during the past month.

“Our first responders have bravely and selflessly served Grand Isle’s residents during this difficult time. We are grateful to the Bayou Community Foundation for its investment in the rebuilding of the island,” said FOGI Vice President Bob Stewart, Ph.D.

FOGI is currently seeking funds to assist Grand Isle’s residents and businesses in their rebuilding efforts. Persons wishing to make a tax-deductible donation to the recovery efforts can make that donation online through the FOGI’s website ([www.FOGL.squarespace.com](http://www.FOGL.squarespace.com)). Donations can also be mailed to:

Friends of Grand Isle  
Post Office Box 575  
Grand Isle, LA 70358

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**About Friends of Grand Isle**

Friends of Grand Isle, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was formed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Its mission is to enhance, assist, and preserve the jewel of our coastline, Grand Isle. Friends of Grand Isle maintains an active membership of nearly 300. Please visit its website for more information: [www.FOGL.squarespace.com](http://www.FOGL.squarespace.com).

**About Grand Isle**

Grand Isle is Louisiana’s only inhabited barrier island. Its seven miles are filled with crepe myrtles, oak trees, marsh trees, aquatic life, and water birds. While Grand Isle gained its fame as a recreation spot, visitors will find a thriving seaside community with petroleum and seafood industries. In fact, it was voted one of the 52 Places to Go in 2020 by the New York Times. According to the 2020 U.S. census projections, Grand Isle has a resident population of 1,450, an 11% increase since 2010. Grand Isle boasts thousands of seasonable residents who own property on the island. These seasonal residents are critical to the local economy. The island boasts about 300,000 visitors a year. Tourism supports a couple hundred small businesses that include motels, marinas, restaurants, a grocery store, gas stations, and specialized businesses for clothing, supplies, and recreational gear.