



**GULF DATA SYSTEMS**  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

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## **Immediate Systems Support Made Available To Credit Unions Affected by Hurricane Katrina**

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With hundreds of credit unions and their members displaced by Hurricane Katrina, Gulf Data Systems of Mobile, Alabama is devoting personnel and services to provide free support in the affected areas until normalcy is restored. Credit unions which have sustained disruptions in service, loss of staff, or damage to their buildings are offered free support in an effort to return critical services to their hard-hit communities.

“We can provide a ‘virtual branch’ through any internet connection, even dial-up,” says Leo Vaulin, owner of GDS. “If a manager can find a phone line and a power supply, we can get them up and running, and back in contact with their members.” This capability allows GDS to offer unique “hurricane relief” to the credit union community by setting up a functioning branch or outreach of regular operations. Full-service Voice-Response, On-line Banking, website and email will allow access to members who have been evacuated to shelters, sought refuge outside the area, or lost their transportation.

Loans, ACH transmissions, direct deposit of payroll and retirement checks and the ability to use ATM’s are critical services for a regional population largely displaced by this natural disaster. Back office operations may also be hindered by the staff that can’t get to the credit union to balance GL’s, manage accounting issues, and manage draft and ACH processing.

“People need a financial base of operations to apply for loans, get cash, and deposit their funds from insurance companies and relief agencies,” Bernie Desrosiers comments. “We specialize in helping small credit unions get their feet under them on a regular basis, so we felt we could help people. The small credit unions are particularly vulnerable to unexpected disasters like this, so it’s impossible not to reach out to them when we really understand what they are going through.”

Gulf Data Systems, a Mobile-based provider of CU data processing since 1977, serves credit unions all over the country.

“This is close to home,” Desrosiers continues. “We believe in the credit union philosophy and decided the best service we could provide to help people would be to get their credit unions up and running, as close to normal as we can make it.”

Owner Leo Vaulin made the call to provide services for free until the credit unions could resume their normal operations. “No strings,” Vaulin says. “We’ve been part of the credit union community for almost thirty years and it is the least we could do for people we really care about.”

Credit unions who would like to take GDS up on the offer to restore services as quickly as possible are asked to contact the following people, or visit the website at [www.gulfddata.org](http://www.gulfddata.org) for complete information and assistance.

- ▶ **Help Desk (Toll Free): 800-293-7554 Ext. 229**
- ▶ **Leo Vaulin (cellphone): 251-604-0659**
- ▶ **Jeanne Croom (cellphone): 251-605-3365**
- ▶ **Bernie Desrosiers: 800-293-7554 Ext. 222**