



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

08-11

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

**OEM AND SAVE THE CHILDREN ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP
TO KEEP NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN SAFE IN SHELTERS
DURING EMERGENCIES**

Julianne Moore joins OEM Commissioner and Save the Children VP at Signing
Ceremony in OEM's Emergency Operations Center

New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno today joined Academy Award-nominated actress and Save the Children Ambassador Julianne Moore and Mark Shriver, Vice President and Managing Director of Save the Children U.S. Programs, to sign an agreement to incorporate Save the Children's Safe Spaces program into New York City's emergency sheltering plan.

The Safe Spaces program provides children with a place to play, socialize, and begin to recover when living in shelters immediately following an emergency. Under the initiative, Save the Children will provide 1,075 Safe Space Kits for use in emergency shelters in New York City. In addition, more than 1,000 volunteers will be trained to lead activities for children in shelters. The kits will be stored in OEM's shelter stockpile along with other supplies that can be quickly deployed to as many as 509 pre-identified shelter locations.

"As we were reminded last weekend by Tropical Storm Hanna, New York City is no stranger to strong coastal storms," said Commissioner Bruno. "OEM manages one of the most sophisticated shelter systems in the country and thanks to Save the Children we are better prepared to keep our youngest New Yorkers comfortable if we ever have to put the plan into action."

"Images of devastation and loss caused by hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes and floods have dominated the news almost every day this summer giving us ample reason to remain vigilant and pay attention to the unique needs of our children during an emergency. Save the Children's partnership with the City of New York fulfills a critical role in protecting and safeguarding children's needs during what is often a chaotic and tumultuous time in their lives," said Mark Shriver, Vice President and Managing Director of Save the Children U.S. Programs.

In a major coastal storm, such as a category 3 or 4 hurricane, as many as 2.3 million people would need to evacuate from New York City's coastal areas and up to 600,000



Save the Children®

people would require temporary shelter. To meet those needs OEM has developed a comprehensive Coastal Storm Plan that includes detailed procedures for evacuating and sheltering residents. The City's shelter system consists of 65 evacuation centers and up to 509 hurricane shelters, including eight special medical needs shelters. To supply and staff the shelter system, OEM maintains an emergency stockpile of essential supplies and a database of nearly 25,000 City employees who would be called upon to manage evacuation centers and emergency shelters.

Save the Children is a global leader in protecting children during disasters and assisting in their recovery. With over 20 years experience in serving children during international emergencies and crisis, Save The Children has continued to grow its domestic disaster response and advocacy capacities. To date, Save the Children has reached more than 200,000 children and adult caregivers during domestic disasters. Save the Children is the only agency on FEMA's National Advisory Council whose mission is to advocate for children. In addition, Mark Shriver, Vice President and Managing Director of Save the Children's U.S. Programs, has been elected to serve as Chair of the newly-created National Commission for Children in Disasters. Save the Children is proud to have led the coalition that advocated for the legislation to create this important commission.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Janell Vantrease, Vantrease@sunshinesachs.com, 212-691-2800/917-806-9607

Chris Gilbride, CGilbride@OEM.NYC.GOV, 718-422-4888/ 347-245-0490