

## Wheelchairs for Houston

Where there is a tragedy, Bona Responds kicks in to action and the organization is already answering the call in Houston. The hurricane and flooding have left vast devastation in its wake and amongst the many tragedies, many are left without wheelchairs. They were either lost in the flash flooding or destroyed, and those who depend on them for mobility, are left with nothing. It is the mission of the Bona Responds team to get wheelchairs to those in need.

Pictured in the photo, are three of Olean Medical Group's physicians who are reaching out to the greater Olean communities for financial help for the Bona Responds team. Left to right is Dr. Gilbert Witte, Dr. Tressa Jordan, and Dr. Ricardo Ilustre. "We want to get some wheelchairs down to the Houston area as soon as possible, said Dr. Witte. "Ramps have already been sent so now we need to follow up with chairs," he added.

"We have all wondered how we could possibly help the victims in the Houston area, short of going there ourselves" said Dr. Jordan. "Many people have already donated to the Red Cross or some other disaster relief agency but this is an organization in our midst, an organization we know, and we know what their goals are," she added.

Olean Medical Group is pleased to be able to help and coordinate contributions but they can't do it alone - the need is so great. The cost of a standard adult wheelchair is about \$165. To make a donation, go to [www.bonaresponds.org](http://www.bonaresponds.org), or monetary donations in the form of cash or checks can be dropped off at any of Olean Medical Group's offices in Olean, Cuba, Franklinville, Ellicottville, and Salamanca. "Not everyone can afford to donate enough money for a wheelchair but we know how giving our greater Olean community is, so if enough of us can donate even \$5 to \$20, I bet we can purchase enough to help Bona Responds," said Dr. Ilustre.

Tricia Henzel is coordinating the fundraising at the medical group offices. Registration personnel at all Olean Medical Group offices will accept donations Monday through Friday, during open hours - either cash or checks made out to St. Bonaventure University, marked for Bona Responds. "No donation is too small, when you consider the devastation this hurricane has left," said Mrs. Henzel. "The hurricane's effects will be felt for years and our hearts go out to them."

For more information, go to [BonaResponds.org](http://BonaResponds.org) or email Mrs. Henzel at the Olean Medical Group at [thenzel@oleanmedical.com](mailto:thenzel@oleanmedical.com).

