



## **HOST COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TO BENEFIT HURRICANE VICTIMS**

### ***Admission to CivicFest Waived to Promote Donations to Relief Effort***

**MINNEAPOLIS SAINT PAUL, MINN. (Sept. 2, 2008)** – The Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee today announced several fundraising efforts to benefit the victims of Hurricane Gustav, including waiving admission for the remaining three days of CivicFest: A Very Minnesota Celebration to encourage donations. The Host Committee, which produced CivicFest and is hosting the 2008 Republican National Convention, will also distribute information about how people can donate to the effort at all of their official events.

“The goal of CivicFest is to foster and promote community involvement and we hope that by making admission free, more people will choose to attend and donate those dollars to help the people of the Gulf Coast,” said Jeff Larson, CEO of the Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee. “Whether it is \$2 out of a piggy bank or \$200, we want to make it possible for everyone to participate in the relief effort while also experiencing this amazing display of civic engagement.”

The Host Committee will donate the contributions to the following organizations: Alabama Governor’s Emergency Relief Fund; Florida Disaster Fund; Louisiana Hurricane Gustav Relief and Recovery Fund; Louisiana Aidmatrix Foundation; Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund; and Texas Responds.

CivicFest is a one-of-a-kind event being held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. CivicFest features 35 innovative exhibits that highlight Minnesota business as well as American history, democracy and the U.S. Presidency.

Previously, ticket prices for CivicFest were \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, seniors (60+) and active-duty military; children under 8 were admitted free. CivicFest will be open during the following days and times:

Tuesday, September 2	9:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Wednesday, September 3	9:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Thursday, September 4	9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### **About The Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee**

The Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee is a non-partisan, 501c3 nonprofit charged with promoting the commerce, image and prestige of Minneapolis, Saint Paul and the entire region in preparation for the 2008 Republican National Convention. The Host Committee is made up of community

leaders who are committed to educating people and businesses to come to Minnesota to work, live, play, visit and invest. For more information, visit [www.msp2008.com](http://www.msp2008.com).

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