

NEW ANTHOLOGY TO HELP DISASTER VICTIMS

Featuring writing from Orson Scott Card, Wil Wheaton, Robin Lee Hatcher and others.

November 1, 2005 - As they watched the coverage of Hurricane Katrina's devastation, writers who had gathered on the AbsoluteWrite.com message boards decided not to sit by helplessly any longer. Instead, they set their pens and keyboards to work -- writing uplifting essays, short fiction and poetry on the theme of "strength." The result is the 316-page anthology "Stories of Strength," with 100 percent of the proceeds to go to disaster relief charities, including the Red Cross, AmeriCares and the Salvation Army.

Headed by Jenna Glatzer, author of the acclaimed Celine Dion biography "For Keeps," this project attracted contributions from many well-known writers, including a story and an original hymn by award-winning science fiction novelist Orson Scott Card, an essay by famed actor Wil Wheaton ("Star Trek," "Stand By Me"), and a short story from Christian romance author Robin Lee Hatcher.

With more than 100 pieces from writers all over the world, and the gracious efforts of prominent editors and graphic designers, "Stories of Strength" is a tribute to the human spirit: celebrating true stories of courage and endurance in challenging situations that range from the death of a child to living through natural disasters, to smaller-scale trials, like dealing with returning an overdue book to the local Library Troll.

Misti Sandefur of Southern Illinois is one of the writers whose work was chosen for "Stories of Strength." Her essay, Behind Closed Doors, is included in the Strength to Start Over section of the anthology.

"I'm proud to have my story included," says Sandefur. "It feels great to be able to use my love of writing to help people in need."

Alternating between tear-jerking and humorous, "Stories of Strength" is guaranteed to inspire and remind readers that the human spirit knows no boundaries.

"Many people have said they plan to order copies for everyone on their holiday list," says Jenna Glatzer. "What a fantastic way to give a present that also helps people rebuild their lives."

The writers hope to turn their words into sizable, long-term contributions to disaster relief charities. In addition to the writers' donations, publishing company Lulu is generously donating its profits from the project. On the first day of sales, proceeds totaled over \$500. The writers aim to raise a minimum of \$100,000 toward disaster relief.

Most writers, including Sandefur, are available for interviews, readings and book signings.

"Stories of Strength" is available to order from Lulu, Amazon and bookstores worldwide.

The writers hope to reinforce the power bloggers and community newspaper journalists have shown in publicizing great projects. This is a grassroots effort that depends on word-of-mouth and word-of-Web publicity.

Book details:

"Stories of Strength"

Editor/Publisher: Jenna Glatzer

Publishing services provided by Lulu

ISBN: 1-4116-5503-6

Release date: November 1, 2005

316 pages

Price: \$15.95

6.0 x 9.0 in., Perfect-bound, 60# cream interior paper, black and white interior ink, 100# white exterior paper, full-color (CMYK) exterior.

To schedule an interview with Sandefur and/or extend an invitation for Sandefur to be a guest at your next online chat, radio show or speaking event, please contact her at (708) 71MISTI or mediainquiries@mistisandefur.com.

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