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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Katrina Relief Bill Contains Incentives for Year-End Giving

The Hurricane Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act passed by Congress last month is good news for charitable donors who are considering making year-end gifts.

Individual donors who make cash gifts to any public charity between August 28 and the end of this year are exempt from the 50% annual deduction limitation. Individuals may fully deduct gifts made for any charitable purpose up to their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), but corporate gifts must be limited to relief efforts related to Hurricane Katrina. This is a one-time exclusion, and amounts that exceed the new limits may be carried over to future years.

“This means they can deduct cash gifts that are up to 100% of their adjusted gross income,” said Mary Louise Nunes, a Certified Public Accountant and Treasurer for the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts. “This applies only to cash gifts, although there are still a number of benefits and incentives to giving through securities or stocks. As always, people should consult their tax advisors when making charitable decisions.”

“This is good news at a time of year when people are making decisions on year-end charitable giving,” said Community Foundation President Craig J. Dutra. “Community Foundations are a perfect vehicle for these gifts because they know their communities very well, and can match donors with specific local needs. We hope this law provides incentive for area residents to give generously.”

The law excludes gifts to donor-advised and other similar types of funds.

About the Community Foundation

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

To date, the Community Foundation has assets of more than \$14 million and has distributed over \$3 million from 59 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region.