



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina: Personal Stories of Hardship and Recovery***

When the world as they knew it came to an end for hundreds of thousands of Americans, two doctors in different parts of the country became involved in the response and recovery efforts. Through their eyes and experiences, and those whom they met along the way, *Lessons Learned, Successes Achieved* shows the reader that heroes truly do live among us. It becomes apparent that in the wake of Katrina, many victories were achieved by courageous and caring people that had the courage to use their knowledge and skills and took action to make a difference.

One person who was willing to share the knowledge he has acquired over the years was Dr. Robert Gillio of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Dr. Gillio has served in emergency rooms, on the scene at Ground Zero in the days following 9/11, and has since donated his services by making multiple trips to the Gulf Coast region following Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Gillio's experience has proven that good things happen when people are well meaning, take leadership and work hard. The people and the stories in *Lessons Learned, Successes Achieved* reflect the best of America and are something to be celebrated as we realize that, in the midst of adversity, there are both small and great successes achieved.

This book is not a “Lessons Learned” in the conventional emergency management style where an after-action debriefing comes together and critiques what went wrong and how to improve upon it. This book will allow us take few moments and focus on those things that went right.... And hopefully be motivated to be the ones in our homes and communities that plan for, prepare, respond and recover from hardship in similar ways. *Lessons Learned, Successes Achieved* is a series of essays from people from all walks of life and different parts of the country. It focuses on their experiences and successes with survival, service, leadership, and preparedness and is intended to show the human experience of one of the nation’s worst national disasters. This book emphasizes the power of the human spirit to inspire, motivate and accomplish. It can also be used in educational settings for history, social studies, science and service learning instruction. A companion web site area with photographs, updates, and lesson plans can be found at <http://www.theinnerlink.com>.

The hope is that, after reading this book, individuals will see the importance of thinking ahead and being prepared. “I’ve seen first-hand the result of lack of personal preparedness in the event of a disaster,” Gillio stated.

The authors of *Lessons Learned, Successes Achieved* are sensitive to the massive losses suffered by the people in the Gulf Region. They have created this book to keep the healing and recovery process alive. Proceeds from this book will go to the City of New Orleans Health Department and the school districts of Long Beach and Pass Christian, Mississippi.