

STATEMENT FROM GERBER REGARDING
HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORT
9-12-05

Gerber Products Company responded to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort by providing desperately needed food and juice products to assist families in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Gerber is working with the American Red Cross, Feed the Children and International Aid to ensure that the products are delivered in a proper and expedient manner in order to help victims of this disaster. Additionally, the Gerber, Ft. Smith, Arkansas facility is working with local partners to provide food for those families relocated to nearby Ft. Chafee. Over the coming weeks, Gerber will continue to work with these and other local agencies to provide support as needed.

Gerber is part of the Consumer Health Division of Novartis AG, a world leader in pharmaceuticals and consumer health. In response to the disaster, Novartis businesses in the U.S. have collectively supplied over one million dollars in cash donations with an additional \$10.5 million dollars in products, including antibiotics and medicines for transplant, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal and neurological conditions.

We sincerely hope that the Gerber and Novartis response will help provide comfort to those in need.

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