

Teamlink

Serving and strengthening the Gambro Healthcare team

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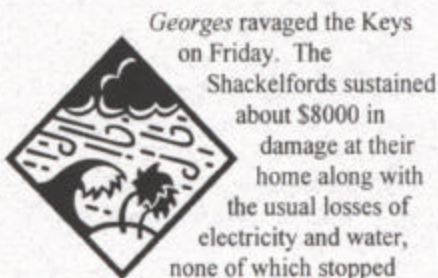
Hurricane Georges Brings Out the Best

There are many success stories from our clinics about staff members who met the ferocity of Hurricane Georges with a high shine of dedication and professionalism. Below are some of those stories:

Upper Keys and Key West, FL

Lee and Estela Shackelford are heroes. As Clinical Managers of Key West (Lee) and Upper Keys (Estela), along with their respective excellent and loyal staffs they dialyzed Tuesday, September 22nd, starting at 1:30 AM to ready all their patients for mandatory evacuation prior to the closing of the only highway.

All of Key West prepared for possible damage. After dialyzing patients, Lee had to go buy plywood to cover a double, automated, glass door - the most vulnerable part of the building. After shutting down the water system, he started the 50-mile drive to their home in Marathon. His staff were invited to wait out the storm there and luckily arrived in time to help hang the plywood. Estela's Upper Keys staff waited out the storm 50 miles north of the Tavernier Key in Homestead. Armed with the list of patients and potential addresses, they were ready to return as soon as the storm passed.



them attending to their first priority - their patients.

Saturday, the Upper Keys staff crossed the road barrier at the top of the Keys. The clinic had not sustained damage and the staff prepared for the return of the patients whose last treatment had been Tuesday. Finally Estela arrived with the patients she had picked up. Meanwhile, Lee was tracking down 7 patients who had refused to evacuate.

The Key West clinic had lost both water and electricity. Lee's patients were in trouble. Some were airlifted to hospitals in Dade County. Lee drove over 700 miles helping patients back and forth. All hotels were closed in Key West so Lee spent two nights on the floor of the clinic! Between GTS and the staff, the Key West Clinic opened just 7 days after *Georges* pounded through.

Lee and Estela took a week off to clean and repair their home. He will now insist on mandatory evacuation for the patients.

Gulf Region Overcomes It All!

The Tuesday after *Georges* stormed through Mississippi, the clinics were without power. Using cell phones while at home in the dark, Clinical Managers coordinated all patient activity. Hard as this was, the endurance contest had just begun!

Civil defense was unable to assist us as had been originally planned. Kathy Buse, AD from Louisiana called the governor of Mississippi, who answered our need with immediate state and federal assistance. Meanwhile, a local fire truck tanker came on site within minutes of our plea and provided water until the other tankers arrived! The generator and tanker trucks arrived at the Singing River clinic in Pascagoula on Tuesday. Kevin Burns,

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