



# Jewelers of America press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **JA RECOVERY NETWORK GEARING UP FOR 2006 STORM SEASON**

*Recovery Network provides forum for retail jewelers to assist peers affected by disaster*

NEW YORK, NY - In response to the destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina last year, Jewelers of America formed the JA Recovery Network, a peer-to-peer support and mentoring service. It is designed to address the specific needs of retail jewelers as they work to recover and rebuild in the wake of a catastrophic event, such as a fire, flood or other natural disaster. The Recovery Network has already provided assistance to hundreds of JA member jewelers in need across the Gulf Coast, and is prepared to help jewelers as the 2006 storm season approaches.

“Already this year, we’ve seen JA members affected by tornadoes and storms in the Midwest, floods in New England, and other terrible events,” says JA Chairman John Cohen, Carlyle & Co., Greensboro, NC. “We want to be prepared to step in whenever retail jewelers need assistance in these emergency situations.”

The Recovery Network is divided into two main sections: Resources Needed and Resources Offered. Volunteers select the specific areas of support they wish to provide; these areas include rebuilding/reconstruction management, employment support, housing/temporary lodging, and financing/cash flow. Jewelers in need can then contact their JA member peers for assistance. The Network database can be accessed at <http://forum.jewelers.org>.

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Designed to be a permanent and consistent resource that jewelers can rely on in the advent of natural disasters and other catastrophic events, the Recovery Network is recruiting JA members and others in the industry – especially those with experience in rebuilding and recovery efforts. Last year, members of JA’s regional affiliates reached out to victims through the network in many ways.

While the hope is for a disaster-free season this year, JA President and CEO Matthew A. Runci acknowledges that the Recovery Network is a necessary tool to have in place. “It is important that jewelers nationwide are aware of the Recovery Network – that it is an available, permanent resource,” he says, “so that if and when a catastrophe occurs, the industry is prepared to render help, and affected retailers are able to receive support quickly.”

To learn how you can be part of JA’s Recovery Network, contact the JA member services team at: [members@jewelers.org](mailto:members@jewelers.org), 800-223-0673 (phone), or 646-658-0256 (fax). JA does not pre-screen or qualify volunteers.

For more information about Jewelers of America, visit [www.jewelers.org](http://www.jewelers.org).

*Jewelers of America is the national trade association for retail jewelers.  
With over 10,000 member stores, JA also works locally through its 40 state and regional affiliates.  
JA advocates high social, ethical, and environmental standards, promotes professional business and leadership skills, and enhances its members’ profitability by offering education, certification, marketing and cost-saving programs.*

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