



Veterans Chair, NAACP Charlotte Chapter
Michael Ray, LTC U.S. Army (Retired)



It Helps Knowing Someone Cares

Charlotte, NC – In an effort to ensure a sensitive approach to addressing the mental Health of Survivors of Hurricane Katrina Ken White, President of the Charlotte Chapter of the NAACP in conjunction with Dr. Denyse Hicks-Ray, Crisis Chair for the Association of Black Psychologist (ABPsi) and NAACP State Health Chair went to the Charlotte Coliseum to offer familiarity to the faces that are currently counseling the displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina.

For those individuals seeking nurturing, strength, and hope, it was a refreshing site to see the NAACP along with doctors and counselors offer their expertise. Ken White spoke one-on-one with over forty (40) survivors in addition to offering support to groups of traumatized survivors. They offered their stories and expressed gratitude that the NAACP was looking after their needs. One family spoke of their ordeal in excruciating detail explaining how the water burst through the door forcing them to crawl battered and bruised through the upstairs window.

[Quote from Ken White]

Dr. Denyse Hicks-Ray, clinical psychologist and Board Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress (B.C.E.T.S.), offered a listening ear and a healing touch to all who met her—including Pamela Daigle, CEO of the Charlotte Chapter American Red Cross.

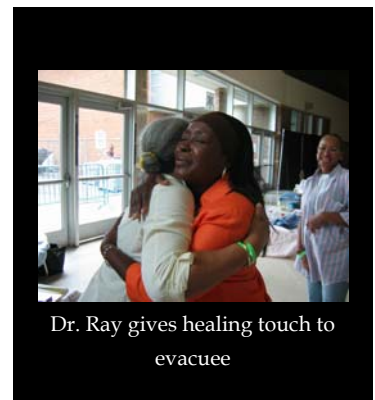
“In providing mental health services to African American survivors, providers should be aware of the universal responses to traumatic stress, as well as, the cultural specific issues salient to African American survivors,” explained, Dr Ray.

Service providers should be conscious that because of the history of racism and white supremacy in this country, many African Americans experience a mistrust of white mental health providers,” expressed Dr. Robert Atwell, president of ABPsi. “We are very interested in partnering with the American Red Cross and other organization that are counseling individuals and families affected by Katrina. We hope that these collaborations around the country will facilitate a healing process that is unlikely to be achieved by continuing to use mainstream psychotherapy,” said Atwell.

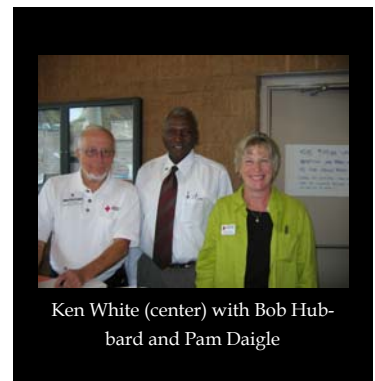
The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.



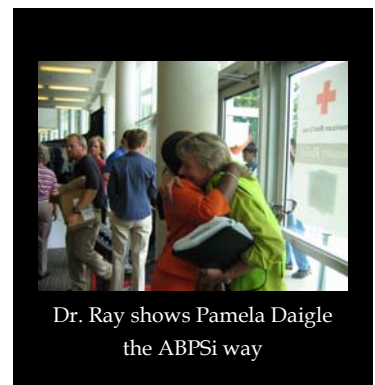
Ken White with family of survivors



Dr. Ray gives healing touch to evacuee



Ken White (center) with Bob Hubbard and Pam Daigle



Dr. Ray shows Pamela Daigle the ABPsi way