



For Immediate Release

Starmount Life Insurance Company and AlwaysCare Benefits Up and Running 36 Hours after Hurricane Gustav

Early Preparation Prepared Starmount and AlwaysCare to Service Customers after Worst Hurricane Damage Recorded in Baton Rouge History

Baton Rouge, LA – September 5, 2008 – Starmount Life Insurance Company and AlwaysCare Benefits were open for business just 36 hours after Hurricane Gustav completed its destructive pass through Baton Rouge, Louisiana on Monday, September 1. With about 750,000 people still without power in the city and region, Starmount implemented its disaster recovery plan quickly and successfully.

The company's dedicated team of Associates worked non-stop through several days and nights to restore power, phones and internet connection. Beginning Wednesday morning, while the vast majority of the city remained closed for business and without power, Starmount continued to serve its Customers as usual.

"We missed one business day of operation. I am extremely proud of our entire team, some of whom worked around the clock to ensure that we were able to work at full capacity," said Hans Sternberg, Chairman of Starmount Life. "It's a great feeling when our team remains dedicated to our Customers and to getting the job done, even through a natural disaster."

About Starmount Life Insurance Company and AlwaysCare Benefits, Inc:

Starmount Life Insurance Company and AlwaysCare Benefits are both family-owned and operated businesses. Known for reliable service and customer satisfaction, the companies are leading providers of individual life and accident products as well as group dental, vision, hearing, group life and disability benefits marketed nationally in 49 states. For more information, please visit www.Starmountlife.com or <a href="www.starm

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