Baton Rougians donate money, blood for Okla.

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The local Red Cross was deluged with offers Thursday from people wanting to donate money to help the relief effort in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing.

"You wouldn't believe the number of calls we've been getting," said Martha Moore, a spokeswoman for the Louisiana Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The money will go to a fund that helps pay for relief efforts in Oklahoma City and for other disasters.

People coming in off the street with mobile telecommunications equipment.

Doug Stracener left Wednesday night with a small satellite dish to help with communications in the stricken city.

The Red Cross there was unable to rely on phone lines because of the huge load of calls in the wake of the bombing, said Rusty Reed, disaster operations coordinator for the capital area chapter.

About 50 people Wednesday donated blood at United Blood Services at 4336 North Blvd., said spokes-

Relief agencies in Oklahoma City haven't made a national appeal for blood, according to Red Cross and United Blood Services.

But having more people come to donate blood will take care of local needs so surplus blood can be sent to Oklahoma if requested, Moore said.

People wanting to help through the Red Cross can contribute to the American Red Cross Disaster Rele-

LA, 70808.

The Red Cross urges people to send contributions rather than clothes or food, which isn't equipped to han-

The Red Cross also suggests that another way people can help with future emergencies is to become trained Red Cross disaster volunteer.

The Red Cross offers free training courses. For more infor-

mation about volunteering, call the Red Cross at 826-4333.