Gamers rally for Katrina support

By *srlinuxx*
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Online gamers are joining the US public to give their support to those affected by the aftermath of the destructive hurricane Katrina.

Sony Online Entertainment (SOE) is rallying support for those caught up in the disaster via its massive community of players in Everquest II.

Players of the online game can make in-game donations to the Red Cross.

SOE said it was also suspending some 13,000 account holders from the affected areas until they log in again.

"We look at all our subscribers as an extended family," Chris Kramer from SOE told the BBC News website.

"It is amazing what large groups of people can do and we certainly have 100s of 1,000s playing the game worldwide.

"This is an opportunity for us to not only to lend a hand, but to ask other people in the community who not affected to help, which is why we activated the new command line."

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