



Stargazer Foundation's Strong Angel III Exercise Becomes Real-Time Support

The Stargazer Foundation, led by VPP Founding Investor Art Bushkin who serves as Chairman and CEO, recently partnered with the Red Cross, IBM, and others to provide communications support for a large scale Integrated Disaster Response exercise, called Strong Angel III. What began as a drill became real-time support as Tropical Storm Ernesto gathered strength, and, using the Foundation's Stargazer.org technology platform, the Red Cross was able to:

- Send/receive private, reliable messages to/from its virtual command center, national disaster operations center, local chapters, partners, and personnel;
- Communicate to/from Stargazer (on the Web), any computer desktop with Internet connectivity, mobile devices, and existing Red Cross applications and systems; and
- Transmit text, maps, pictures, audio, and video.

Since then, Stargazer has been operationally supporting the Red Cross, and their usage of the system has grown. Art says, "This technology can be used to address many of the communications problems that have been identified in every report and analysis since 9/11. We and the Red Cross are also continuing to develop additional uses of the technology, such as assisting the Red Cross's Hurricane Recovery Program in working with Katrina clients along the Gulf Coast." Stargazer was founded in 1999 by Art Bushkin and VPP Founding Investor Kathy Bushkin. See www.Stargazer.org for more information on the Stargazer technology.

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Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP) is a philanthropic investment organization that helps great leaders build strong, high-performing nonprofit institutions. It concentrates money, expertise, and personal contacts to improve the lives and boost the opportunities of children and youth low-income families in the National Capital Region and cultivates a growing donor community of high net worth families to generate funding and influence in support of these institutions and of social change.