



SQUARE D

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SQUARE D® HELPS REBUILD STONE COUNTY BASEBALL FIELD
With Donation, Field Upgrades Will Be Ready for the 2007 Baseball Season

PALATINE, III. – July 20, 2006 –Dedicated players, coaches and parents of the Stone High School Baseball Team raised more than \$20,000 to upgrade their school's baseball field, only to see their efforts destroyed by Hurricane Katrina's fury last August. Almost one year later, thanks to months of hard work by the team and its supporters, and a donation from Square D – best known in the United States as Schneider Electric's flagship brand for electrical distribution equipment – the field is being repaired and will be ready for the first pitch in early 2007.

The donation will not only provide necessary repairs to ensure the field is both operational and safe for players and fans, but it will also restore the projects previously financed by the parents' fundraising efforts before Hurricane Katrina hit. The initiatives include renovating or replacing the fields' playing surface, lights, fences, bleachers and bull pen areas and batting cages as well as the concession stand, safety netting, scoreboard and inclement weather practice facility.

The donated funds are part of a larger effort by Square D to rebuild community locations and organizations throughout the Gulf Region and improve the lives of those who live there. Total monetary donations to the collective efforts tallied over \$1 million.

"Giving back to the community has always been a key value of the company, especially in the face of tragic natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina," said Dave Petratis, president and CEO of the Schneider Electric North American Operating Division. "It is gratifying to know our donation will touch the lives of the hardworking people of Stone County and help to restore such a treasured facility."

According to Kevin Conard, coach of the Stone High School Baseball Team, the devoted players, coaches and parents have worked for months to restore order to the baseball field, often after full days of work and school.

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Hurricane Katrina destroyed the scoreboard and batting cages and severely damaged field lights, fencing, the field's playing surface, bleachers, the concession stand, press box and inclement weather practice facility. All of these areas will be fixed by the team and its supporters over the next six months.

"We [players, coaches and parents] take tremendous pride in this facility and are really appreciative of all of the help from Square D," Conard said. "By making the necessary investments to upgrade the field, we are hoping to create a tradition in Stone County that will have a positive impact on the lives of our kids for decades to come."

With the team's hard work, they were able to get the field in playable condition for the 2006 season, although many necessary projects are yet to be completed. Despite the adversity, the team was able to finish with its first winning season in years, with a 14-13 record. The summer season, currently in progress, wraps up at the end of July, and once finished, the team's top priority is to continue restoring the field.

"We are incredibly proud to support such a tremendous cause and ensure that Stone County baseball players and fans will have a wonderful new facility to enjoy one of America's greatest pastimes for years to come," said Karl Newquist, hurricane recovery project leader for the Schneider Electric North American Operating Division. "More than anything, we wanted our donation to help restore normalcy to some of the many lives still affected daily by Hurricane Katrina's devastation, especially initiatives directly related to our youth."

For additional information regarding Square D's Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, log on to

<http://www.us.schneider-electric.com>.

Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric had sales of \$2.8 billion (U.S.) in 2005. The North American Operating Division is one of four operating divisions of Schneider Electric, headquartered in Paris, France, and markets the Square D, Telemecanique and Merlin Gerin brand products to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, Schneider Electric is best known by its flagship Square D brand, with Telemecanique becoming increasingly known in the industrial control and automation markets and supported by many Square D distributors. For 100 years, Square D has been a market-leading brand of electrical distribution and industrial control products, systems and services. Schneider Electric is a global electrical industry leader with 2005 sales of approximately \$14.5 billion (U.S.). Visit Schneider Electric on the Internet at:

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