Hate to defend oil companies, but...

A recent letter writer asked: "With all the people and groups opening their checkbooks for New Orleans relief, what group have we not heard from? Shell, Exxon, BP, etc."...

I hate to defend the oil companies, but the facts are, according to headlines on the companies' Web sites:

- "BP increases humanitarian relief to $5 million."
- "Shell dedicates more than $3 million to aid Gulf Coast employees and residents affected by Hurricane Katrina."
- "ExxonMobil increases Hurricane assistance to more than $7 million."
- "CITGO Petroleum Corporation has pledged a $1 million donation towards Hurricane Katrina relief efforts."
- "Sunoco Inc. will donate $1 million to the American Red Cross in support of the relief efforts along the Gulf Coast to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. In addition, the company will match dollar for dollar contributions made by employees and donate its match to the Red Cross."
- "ConocoPhillips will contribute $3 million to assist relief efforts arising from Hurricane Katrina and the resultant flooding in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The company will establish a matching program for employees."

Most oil companies, and all those he named, have supported relief efforts. Many have increased initial donations and set up plans to match individual donations. How many of the companies you have worked for have given support?

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