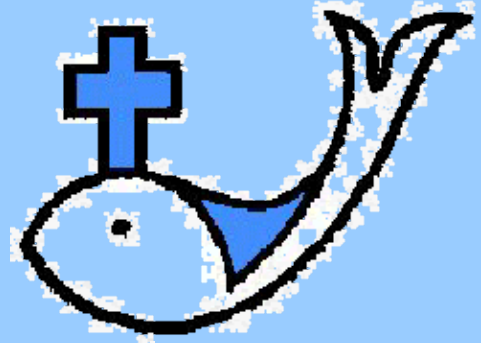


Bayou Grace Community Services



Week of December 10—16, 2006

WHAT A YEAR!

We are nearing the end of the year already! The disaster relief world moves so quickly. Bayou Grace is successfully transitioning from being reactionary to developing and implementing long-term solutions for the bayou communities. Continued and new partnerships will help us all to move forward with sustainable housing options and, as well, begin to introduce outreach for environmental, medical, and other social needs. What a blessing it is to work with so many within and outside of the community to work towards a holistic approach to disaster relief!

So many of you have met and worked with the wonderful families with which we have partnered in the bayous. Bayou Grace Community Services has compiled an approximate of the aggregate details of our service to the bayou communities:

Case Management

Clients: 138; Closed Cases: 45

These clients have been served through a combination of the following: FEMA, insurance, Road Home paperwork, distribution, construction, referral to Mennonite Disaster Service, long-term counseling, or referral for short-term counseling with Louisiana Spirit, and other referrals or services.

Many open cases involve people and families who continue to wait for FEMA appeals, Road Home interviews, and awards and assistance from parish and other mitigation programs.

Construction

Home repair since September 15th: 11

4 complete, 7 volunteers needed to continue to repair

These are homes that Bayou Grace has completely organized since Construction Manager Carl and Family Advocate/Warehouse Manager Sue Grissom began on September 15, 2006. Before this time, all construction needs and most volunteers were referred to Mennonite Disaster Service. Before September, approximately 15 to 20 homes were referred to Mennonite Disaster Service once the case work was completed.

Counseling

20 Long-Term Clients

In addition, many clients were and continue to be referred to Louisiana Spirit for short-term counseling needs.

Distribution

Over 100 families and organizations have been served through Bayou Grace with distribution donated from Lutheran Church Charities, Orphan Grain Train, Louisiana Access to Technology Network, and Convoy of Hope. This includes food, furniture, and medical supplies.

Bayou Grace Community Services has served our clients with much needed distribution, as well as clients of Catholic Social Services, TRAC, Louisiana Spirit, and other area service agencies. Two shipments of medication served two Teche Action Clinics, clinics that serve those with Medicare, Medicaid and, as well, those who are uninsured, and St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy.

Partnerships & Networks

- Lutheran Disaster Response
- Lutheran Social Services of the South Disaster Relief
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Southern District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Eastern District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Lutheran Church Charities
- Orphan Grain Train
- Shoemaker Foundation
- Disciples of Christ/Week of Compassion
- Private Donors
- Mennonite Disaster Service
- Dr. Diane Austin, Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology at the University of Arizona
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Recreation District 7 in Chauvin
- Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program
- Catholic Social Services
- TRAC
- Louisiana Spirit/Options for Independence
- Office of Public Health

Congregations

- Our Redeemer—Freeport, Illinois

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LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES • LSS DISASTER RESPONSE • ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
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- St. John's Lutheran—La Grange, Illinois
- Messiah Lutheran—Weldon Springs, Missouri
- Redeemer Lutheran—Elmhurst, Illinois
- Immanuel Lutheran—Freeport, Illinois
- Christ Lutheran Church—Cottonwood, Minnesota
- St. John Lutheran—Wheaton, Illinois

Volunteer Hours

- Approximately 100 weekly volunteers who contributed about 3,500 volunteer hours in the bayous
- Six long-term volunteers who contributed roughly 840 volunteer hours rebuilding the bayous.

People who have served as volunteers have had a crucial part in the nurturing and building of Bayou Grace Community Services. Volunteers have contributed their knowledge, skill, dedication, and blessings to this mission.

A sample of what volunteers have accomplished:

- repairing homes, helping to build the first hurricane-resistant home in the bayous
- organized and managed the warehouse
- organized and performed countless office management and administration duties
- counseling families
- provided spiritual support for families
- helped relieve daily duties of family members so that they could have time to work on their own home
- cooked with families and ate with them
- made friendships and spread an enormous amount of hope into the bayou communities

Blessings to you all!

Housing has been so graciously provided by Mark and Barbara Wehmeyer, Carol Hoelter, and Recreation District 7 in Chauvin. Initially volunteers stayed at Mark and Barbara's home. Some volunteers also stayed at the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Village. Still others stayed at the home of Mike and Cindy Pellegrin.

More permanent housing has been secured with weekly volunteers residing at the Recreation District 7 Gym. This partnership was made possible by Bea Prosperie, the manager for the Recreation Center, as well as at the board for the facility. Long-term volunteers stayed in Carl Hoelter's motor home, which is parked at the home of Mike and Cindy Pellegrin.

Financial Gifts & Income

- Office space at Grace Lutheran Church in Houma: valued at approximately \$3,600
- Distribution from Orphan Grain Train, Lutheran Church Charities, Convoy of Hope, and Louisiana Access to Technology Network: circa \$50,000+ in donations
- Work truck donated by St. Paul Lutheran Church—New Orleans: \$2,000

Income

- Southern District—LCMS: \$23,000 (Family Advocate)
- Lutheran Disaster Response: \$15,904.93 (Program Manager)

- Southern District—LCMS: \$35,000 (Pastoral Counselor)
 - Shoemaker Foundation: \$8,000 (Pastoral Counselor)
 - Disciples of Christ/Week of Compassion: \$26,000 (Construction Costs)
 - Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation: \$60,000 (Pastoral Care/Mental Health Outreach)
 - Organizational/Personal Gifts: \$163,890.56
- Total: \$331,795**

Expense

- Assistance Relief: \$177,150
 - Family Advocacy: \$26,200
 - Pastoral Counseling: \$80,200
 - Program Management: \$42,000
- Total: \$325,550**

Outreach

- Weekly Coastal Land Loss Education Project: average of 2 per month since May 16; 16 with an average of 30 volunteers per each evening = 480
- 2 Camp Noah Summer Camps at The Father's House—Pointe-aux-Chenes and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church—Dularge
- Tours of the bayous and pots of jambalaya and gumbo consumed: countless!
- Hope spread: immeasurable!
- Blessings and thanksgiving: out of this world!

Where We're Headed

- Hurricane-resistant homes: Bayou Grace and Mennonite Disaster Service are offering to partner with the community whereby BG and MDS absorb labor costs of this home if a family or individual can finance the material cost of the home. Carl Grissom oversaw the prototype of the first Shelter for Life home while he and his wife Sue were volunteering with Mennonite Disaster Service. With Carl and Sue now working with Bayou Grace and, as well, with the continued partnership of Mennonite Disaster Service, we can continue to offer sustainable housing options for the bayous. Bayou Grace will take inquiries until mid-January or early February. After this time, Mennonite Disaster Service and Bayou Grace will make partnerships with families who qualify.
- Continued home repair
 - One or two deaconesses to continue mental health and spiritual care and to do outreach for mental health services
 - Environmental Outreach Liaison to address coastal land loss and toxic environmental concerns. Bayou Grace has pending grants that would fund this position.
 - Parish Nurse/Medical Outreach Liaison. Bayou Grace is networking with the Office of Public Health to help extend much-needed medical services to the people in the bayous. Bayou Grace is now grant writing to fund the position of one or two parish nurses who would act as liaisons between the community and area service agencies.

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- Begin budget and business plan for preschool co-op
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has begun to establish partnerships with Bayou Grace and others in the bayou communities to aid with community development. Issues of racism, economic development, and youth development are among those that will be addressed. Bayou Grace looks forward to the possibilities that this partnership can offer to the people in the bayou communities.
- Lutheran Church Charities has been working with the bayou communities since the immediate aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This ministry has helped with distribution, volunteers, and has also served as a liaison for community development. Dianna Bonfield has worked to link Bayou Grace with outreach possibilities through the parish nurse and deaconess programs and, as well, with possibilities for organizing and implementing a preschool. The deaconess opportunity will become a reality soon, and Bayou Grace continues to work to make the parish nurse option a reality, as well as the preschool.

Continued Projects & Needs

- Volunteers
- Pictures of congregations and individuals who have come and served in the bayous—and their services. If any of you would like to share some of your favorite digital photos, Bayou Grace would be extremely appreciative.

Construction Sites Pending

- #1: roof repair on single woman's home
 - Wind damage from Hurricane Katrina
 - Woman has secured funding for repair
 - One week's worth of work is needed to secure the roof and to stop the leaks.
 - # of volunteers needed: 2
 - Skills needed: roof repair
- #2: single woman caring for her disabled brother and other family members
 - This matriarch sustained wind and water damage from both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
 - With insurance and FEMA funding she was able to elevate her home.
 - With remaining funding she was able to hire a contractor to do foundation work and to build a handicapped-accessible ramp for her brother who was in a motorcycle accident two years ago.
 - The funding that remains is being used for building material for the interior of home.
 - Volunteers are needed for three more weeks to finish the interior of her home. Then she and her brother can move out of the FEMA trailer.
 - # of volunteers needed: 4 to 6
 - Skills needed: unskilled or skilled
- #3: single man who recently gained custody of three- and five-year-old niece and nephew

- Home sustained wind damage from Hurricane Katrina and past storms
- Volunteers have already built a railing, a fence, poured concrete, and begun to do interior work.
- Home was elevated a couple of years ago. Homeowner could afford to elevate but not brace the foundation; consequently, floor is not level.
- Three weeks' worth of work is needed to level the home and to repair the kitchen and bathroom.
- Approximately \$5,500 needed to complete repairs; funding is being secured
- # of volunteers needed: ongoing
- Skills needed: unskilled to those who can do roof repair
- Financing needed: \$5,500
- #4 widow who sustained wind and flooding from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
 - Woman and family currently living in condemned trailer that sustained damage
 - Woman and son began building an elevated home; family has funding to for material, but not for labor
 - Ongoing volunteer help is needed to continue building this home. So far, the elevated structure is framed.
 - # of volunteers needed: 4 to 6
 - Skills needed: skilled & unskilled
 - Financing needed: financing secured
- #5: single woman who sustained wind damage from Hurricane Katrina
 - Woman elevated her home previously. Volunteers were able to pour concrete underneath home.
 - Like person # 3, the funding was not available to securely brace the home. Now the floors are uneven.
 - She is securing funding for material. Volunteers are needed for two weeks to finish securing this home.
 - # of volunteers needed: 4 to 6
 - Skills needed: skilled & unskilled
 - Financing needed: \$1,500
- #6: elderly couple who sustained wind and flood damage from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and others
 - This couple is living in this rented home.
 - Bayou Grace has worked with the couple and the landlord. This couple has rented this home for years. The landlord has agreed to pay for all building materials. The couple, who are on a very fixed income, will continue to live in the home after it is repaired at the same rent charge.
 - # of volunteers needed: 4 to 6
 - Skills needed: skilled & unskilled
 - Financing needed: financing secured
- #7: couple living in condemned home
 - This home has sustained damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and past storms. The home is bare and has been stripped to the studs. The priority for the couple is to get a hot water heater and a septic system. They were heating water in a microwave

and using a camper toilet. A hot water heater has been installed. Material goods have also been placed in the home. The woman is now working with the Parish government to get a permit for a septic system.

- Once secured, volunteers will be needed to install the septic system.
 - The price for the system is approximately \$3,000. Partial funding has been secured through Bayou Grace. The remaining funding is needed. The couple can help with labor but not funding.
 - # of volunteers needed: 4 to 6
 - Skills needed: general labor skills
 - Financing needed: \$2,000
- #8: 6+ condemned homes need to be torn down.
- These bayous have been ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and so many others
 - As a result, there are many homes that are not able to be repaired to a sustainable condition. The reality is that many people still live in some of these homes. Some of these homes have been abandoned and now take up valuable space in the community.
 - Volunteers are needed to help remove these homes.
 - Funding is being secured.
 - # of Volunteers needed: 6 to 8
 - Skills needed: backhoe operator, truck driver, laborers
 - Financing needed: ?

For those families who have exceeded their resources or who are unable to finance home repair, Bayou Grace commits \$1,000 to the needs. For remaining needs, Bayou Grace works with other agencies and donors to meet the needs of the individual or the family. As these homes are repaired, new families will be added to this list.

New Home Building

Again, Bayou Grace and Mennonite Disaster Service have pledged to build new homes for families or individuals who are able to secure most or all of the \$62,000 to \$65,000 material cost for the hurricane-resistant home that is being built in the bayous. Mennonite Disaster Service networked with Shelter for Life to get this free housing plan. The home is elevated above flood levels and is engineered to sustain winds up to 155 MPH. The prototype of this home was dedicated on November 30th.

Bayou Grace is currently doing outreach in the community via flyers, newspaper articles, and TV announcements about this opportunity. Bayou Grace will take applications until mid-January and do the required casework for interested individuals and families. Bayou Grace and Mennonite Disaster Service will then partner with up to 10 families to build these sustainable homes!

Volunteers will be needed to help build these homes. They will be led by construction managers with Bayou Grace and Mennonite Disaster Service.

Tools & Material Goods Needed

- 1: tools needed for repair and build Shelter for Life home:
 - Material for bracing form stakes (metal): 50 needed
 - 2 chain saws
 - 32' extension ladder
 - 2-8 ladders
 - 4 sets scaffolding
 - 4 nail guns, different sizes
 - 2 air compressors
 - Heavy duty ½' drill motor (Milwaukee)
 - 2 2/8 drill motors
 - 4 spare batteries for cordless drill
 - 2 skill saws, cordless
 - 1 skill saw
 - Consumables: drill bits, saw blades, electric cords
- 2: equipment needed to build hurricane-resistant home
 - auger: may be less than \$1,000
 - heavy duty trailer: \$3,500
 - Mike Pellegrin has offered the use of his tractor to attach an auger bit.
- 3: work truck
 - tires: 2 @ \$165.00/each
 - tune-up: \$1,000 with injections
 - seat repair: \$250.00

Blessings to all who have helped Bayou Grace grow to this point. This mission has been sustained by so many generous volunteers, congregations, organizations and donors. If your name/ministry/organization and/or donation or service has been inadvertently omitted from this update, please forgive and, moreover, kindly advise us of same and we will make restitution.

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND MOST BLESSED 2007
TO ALL Y'ALL!**



SHELTER FOR LIFE HOME

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