



Volunteer Information Packet

Hello and thank you for your assistance in this time of need for the Gulf Coast area. Your efforts and the efforts of all the volunteers in the area will go towards helping to rebuild the homes and lives of the people of New Orleans and nearby communities. Thank you for your servitude and commitment.

This packet contains some of the things that will prepare you for a successful and meaningful trip. Please read it over and contact us with any questions.

We look forward to your arrival!

This packet contains the following:

- Background information about Project Homecoming
- Olive Tree Volunteer Village Orientation and Introduction
- Project Homecoming Rules and Expectations
- Age Policy
- Rules and Expectations

You will need to fill out and return the following forms (these forms are located in the Volunteer Paperwork document):

- Group Registration Form (one per group)
- Skill Sheet (one per group)
- Individual Registration Form (one per volunteer)
- Individual Medical Release Form (one per volunteer)
- Participant Activities and Hold Harmless Release Form (one per volunteer)
- Agreements Form, found at the bottom of the Individual Registration Form, to indicate that each volunteer has read the Rules and Expectations and Safety Packet and will abide by the standards outlined in these documents (one per volunteer).



Project Homecoming, Inc.

“Building Resilient Neighborhoods”

www.projecthomecoming.net • 504.942.0444 • Fax: 504.942.0408

Project Homecoming Background Information

In 2005, following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, churches of the Presbytery of South Louisiana began to offer housing to volunteer groups from around the country who came to South Louisiana to assist with the massive cleanup and rebuilding efforts in severely impacted communities. Initially, the work of the volunteer groups focused primarily on clearing debris and gutting flood damaged homes. As the clean up progressed, the churches began to focus their attention on ways to assist low income homeowners with the rebuilding of their hurricane damaged homes.

In New Orleans, the presbytery worked with local congregations to organize an infrastructure of staff and resources to facilitate the construction management, volunteer coordination, and client intake needed to sustain a long-term recovery effort. The presbytery opened offices for this recovery ministry in April, 2007 in the education building of Gentilly Presbyterian Church. The name “Project Homecoming” was given to this ministry, which from the start has provided assistance to hurricane survivors who are low-income (defined as 80% of the average median income of New Orleans), giving priority to those who are uninsured, underinsured, elderly and/or disabled.

Since opening in April, 2007, Project Homecoming has rebuilt 135 homes with the assistance of thousands of volunteers. We work in partnership with neighborhood associations, nonprofit organizations, city agencies and various faith-based organizations as we focus on rebuilding homes, lives, and communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Project Homecoming approaches long-term recovery from a community development perspective. We are focused not only on assisting individual survivors of the hurricane, but we also work within distressed, flood-damaged neighborhoods to stabilize and strengthen the resiliency of the larger community where individuals live. Project Homecoming is committed to facilitating a culture of care in targeted communities in the greater New Orleans area through: safe, durable, and environmentally sensitive construction; community driven partnerships; service and fellowship.

Project Homecoming is now a 501(c)3 nonprofit community development organization that maintains an affiliation with the Presbytery of South Louisiana, Presbyterian Church (USA). Our mission is to continue to support the long-term recovery of distressed neighborhoods through affordable housing initiatives and community-based partnerships.

Project Homecoming has built a strong reputation through quality construction, emphasis on community-based partnerships, commitment to green building, and efficient and effective use of volunteers. The news is no longer telling the story of the ongoing challenges faced by survivors of Katrina as neighborhoods struggle to rebuild. Volunteers are our most effective advocates in telling the story of the recovery and the work still to be done in New Orleans.



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A Covenant for Success for work with Project Homecoming

Since there will never cease to be some need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbors in your land.” (Deuteronomy 15:11)

We are privileged to have the opportunity to serve by being a partner in this vital recovery mission. Our primary purpose is to share love, joy and hope by rebuilding homes and communities and by building relationships. We are sent into neighborhoods as ambassadors of our particular faith communities, organizations, and universities; and we recognize we are also ambassadors of Project Homecoming and all others involved in long-term recovery. Our behavior and relationships in the community where we work will directly reflect on our partners long after we have left – for good or ill. It is by virtue of our partners that we are blessed with the introductions to these communities. Our partners will remain long after we are gone.

We will be flexible, adaptive, sensitive and patient. We will make the best of quiet times to rest, to get acquainted with others doing this mission and to build relationships with the people we are blessed to serve. We will be mindful of our own and others safety. We will make time to play and to praise God.

We will be sensitive to those we are helping. We are here to build relationships as much as to complete work projects. We will focus on building mutual relationships. We are here at the request of the community – to render assistance where needed. We are working in people’s homes and communities, where we will be sensitive to their concerns and privacy. We recognize that we may be party to confidential information and will keep such information confidential. We will ask permission before taking any photos. We will not take any mementos from work sites without permission.

The extent of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and its lasting impact on survivors is notable. We come to listen, to support the journey to recovery, and to serve in any capacity needed during the time we are here. We do not come merely as onlookers. We will do whatever needs to be done, according to the wishes of those persons and communities we seek to assist.

Cooperation is the key. We will cooperate with many varied persons and conditions. We will consider the welfare of the whole over personal needs. We will build community within the volunteer village, tending to the needs of each other, as we do the same in the neighborhoods we are helping to rebuild.

“All are called to care for one another in daily living, sharing joys and sorrows, supporting in times of stress and need, offering mutual forgiveness and reconciliation. This care is primarily offered as the community of faith worships together. It is also provided as people interact in community and as they come together in groups for nurture or to carry on ministries of the church.”

(Presbyterian Church USA - Book of Order - W-6.3002)



The Storm’s Survivors

The process of recovery and rebuilding takes time, especially with a storm as extensive and damaging as Hurricane Katrina. Long after the storm is no longer on the radar of most of the outside world, the survivors and their communities continue their struggle to rebuild. It is important to remember that your volunteer group may be able to sprint through a week of work, but you are doing so among persons who are in a marathon of rebuilding over a long haul. Survivors and those who are working with them in long-term recovery organizations have to pace themselves to avoid fatigue and emotional exhaustion. Be sensitive to this reality.

When survivors tell of their experiences, we need to listen without judgment and without interjecting our own tales of “disaster”. We must not minimize a survivor’s story by having to also tell one of our own. It is OK to react with your own emotions – to cry with those affected. Your team is to listen with open hearts

Please be careful about giving advice. While you may want to help a survivor by suggesting ways they could change or improve things, remember that you are only there short term and are seeing things from a limited perspective. It is also important not to provide assistance or suggestions in a manner that creates dependencies. If you see a need or concern, you may wish to point it out to Project Homecoming staff where referrals can be made to agencies that are best trained to help.

Please understand that some survivors are unable to help with the rebuild of their home or communities for physical or emotional reasons. Some need to work during the days to bring in income, others are elderly or disabled. Some are still living out of town a distance from New Orleans and will not be present when you are there.

Volunteer workers must respect all personal information obtained from disaster survivors. Please ask permission before taking photos. Share your experiences concerning survivors in a general way with others. If you are working on a neighborhood project, you may find that people stop by to talk with you or to express their thanks. There are many ways that people in New Orleans may wish to express their thanksgiving. Please do not accept cash from persons you are assisting. The people of New Orleans are grateful for the assistance of volunteers. Almost everyone in the city acknowledges that “we would not be where we are today, if not for the generosity and loving service of faith-based organizations and volunteers.”



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Olive Tree Volunteer Village Housing Facility

Housing:

Project Homecoming manages a volunteer village where your team will be staying. This facility is known as “Olive Tree.” The Olive Tree volunteer village can accommodate up to 90 volunteers in 6 rooms with bunk beds. A common room offers sofas, games, TV, computer, and wireless internet. All rooms are air conditioned and heated. All volunteer groups share the same sleeping, lounging, laundry, and kitchen facilities and the cleaning responsibilities of these areas. Project Homecoming has village managers on staff that will provide orientation and organize the volunteer teams who are staying at Olive Tree each week, since the volunteer groups share in the cooking, chores, and other responsibilities around the village.

Contribution toward room/board:

Each volunteer or volunteer group is asked to make a financial contribution of \$25/night per person to help cover our costs in providing room and board at the Olive Tree volunteer village. We ask that you send a nonrefundable and nontransferable deposit of \$25/person at least 6 weeks prior to your arrival to confirm your registration and total number of volunteers. Please see the registration information at the end of this packet for more details.

If it would be a hardship for your group to provide a financial contribution, please let us know and do not allow this to discourage you from volunteering with us. Exceptions to the asking donation will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Food:

Food will be provided by Project Homecoming, but the cooking responsibilities will be shared between volunteer groups. The Olive Tree kitchen is equipped with an industrial stove, refrigerators, microwave, pots and pans, cooking and eating utensils.

Showers:

Olive Tree has a total of four showers for each gender.

Laundry:

Olive Tree has laundry facilities that are for staff and emergency use only.

Cleaning:

Cleaning responsibilities will be shared by all volunteer groups throughout the week.

For more information, see the Project Homecoming web site www.projecthomecoming.net.

The address for Olive Tree is:

4523 Read Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70127
Phone: (504) 684-1034



Items to Bring

Bedding:

- Bedding or sleeping bag; pillow
- Flat sheet
- Towels
- Heavy work shoes and tennis shoes; flip flops for showers
- Leather or heavy duty work gloves
- Rain gear
- Hat, visor, bandana and/or sweatband
- T-shirts, casual or work shirts
- Jeans or cotton trousers, shorts
- Sleeping attire

Personal Items:

- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Shower shoes & robe
- Razor & shaving cream
- Sunscreen and sunburn relief lotion
- Deodorant
- Personal medication for the length of stay
- Poison ivy lotion
- Insect repellent
- Hand sanitizers

Miscellaneous:

- Devotional materials
- Travel clock
- Books or magazines
- Water bottle
- Fanny pack or backpack

If you have hand tools that you would like to use while you are working with us, please feel free to bring them with you. Project Homecoming strives to provide all tools and materials volunteers will need, but we understand that volunteers also may wish to use their own tools. Be sure to mark your tools so that they do not get packed up with the Project Homecoming tools.

Project Homecoming will provide safety glasses, work gloves, earplugs, and dust masks, but please feel free to bring your personal equipment if you prefer it.



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Team Leader Pre-trip Communication

- To schedule a work week with Project Homecoming, please call Kelly Sharkey at (504) 942-0444 ext. 242 or email villagemanager@projecthomecoming.net
- It is best if only one person from the group is designated as the point of contact/group leader.
- Please turn in all required documents (Group Registration Form, deposit, and Skill Sheets) in a timely manner.
- Be prepared for a phone call 10-14 days before your arrival to confirm some general information about your trip. This is a good time to ask any questions you may have as you are making preparations.
- Team leaders will receive an email the week before arrival with crew and project assignments.
- If any of the following information changes, please contact the Project Homecoming staff immediately.
 - Total number of volunteers
 - Male/female breakdown
 - Number and type of vehicles
 - Travel plans and approximate arrival time
 - Specialized equipment
 - Special needs of the group (medical needs, dietary needs, alternate travel plans)



Job Site Information

Types of Work Sites

- 1. Home Rebuilds** - Project Homecoming works with low-income survivors of Hurricane Katrina who need assistance rebuilding their flood-damaged home. The homeowners have been screened through case management to determine their need for assistance. The rebuilding of homes has been and continues to be a primary activity for many volunteers who work with Project Homecoming.
- 2. New Home Construction** - Project Homecoming has been selected by the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority to develop 8 new homes and renovate 6 storm damaged properties in the Gentilly neighborhood of New Orleans. The 8 new homes are being constructed on lots resulting from the demolition of flood damaged houses. Both the new construction and renovations are part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) which is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The NSP2 funding reimburses Project Homecoming \$25,000 for building/material costs for each of the home renovations and an average of \$40,000 for each new home construction. This subsidy will be passed on to low-income homebuyers to make the houses affordable. Preference will be given to survivors of Hurricane Katrina in the disposition of these homes. The assistance of volunteers in building these homes helps to make them even more affordable.
- 3. Blight Reduction** - As of November, 2011 there were 40,541 blighted properties in New Orleans, representing damaged or demolished properties due to Hurricane Katrina. That figure represents about 25% of the housing stock in the city. That is the highest percentage of blighted properties in the United States (gnocdc.org). Project Homecoming partners with neighborhood associations to identify blighted, storm damaged properties that are impacting the safety and welfare of the community. Project Homecoming volunteers have been involved in clearing overgrown vacant lots, boarding vacant properties, and clearing rubble and brush from neighborhood parks. Project Homecoming has partnered with a neighborhood association to transform a blighted vacant lot into a community garden and citrus grove. We are also identifying storm-damaged houses that we acquire and renovate into affordable homes for low-income households. Volunteers working on these projects are helping to stabilize storm-damaged, distressed neighborhoods.
- 4. Other Community Projects** - Project Homecoming partners with schools, churches, and other neighborhood organizations to identify additional projects that improve the welfare of storm-damaged communities. Project Homecoming volunteers have painted schools, repaired flood damaged church properties, built wheelchair ramps, and planted trees. Volunteers working on these projects are supporting the long-term recovery of these neighborhoods as we facilitate a culture of care in flood-damaged, distressed areas of the city.



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Site Management

- Project Homecoming will have a Work Site Manager on each site, who is responsible for overseeing the jobsite. Each site also has a Construction Manager. Construction Managers are professional construction staff who oversees 3-5 sites at a time.
- Crews will be split up based upon the needs of the jobsites. A deployment e-mail will be sent out to the contact person for your group on the Wednesday prior to your arrival, letting you know what your team will be assigned to do. These deployments are based on the skills sheet that your group sends in and the conversation that your team leader has with the Project Homecoming staff member on the ‘pre-trip contact call.’ Make sure that you clearly communicate strengths and limitations to your team leader and get that information in on time.
- Team Leaders: As the leader of your volunteer group, make sure you spend time with your crew discussing talents and desires as early as possible and communicate that with the Project Homecoming staff through the Skills Sheet and Contact Calls.
- Once volunteers arrive, they will be given a Project File for the project they are working on. This Project File will be filled with site specific information for you to read through and use throughout the week.

Group Items Needed at Worksite

- **First Aid Kit:** you are responsible for purchasing and bringing with you a First Aid kit for each job site where you will have volunteers working. .
- **Medical forms:** 2 copies – one to keep on site, and one to leave with the Project Homecoming staff
- **Safety Packet:** Each crew member must have read and signed the Safety Packet included in the volunteer packet.
- **Covenant:** Each crew member must have read and signed the Covenant prior to arrival
- **Project File:** The project file that is given at the beginning of the week is to stay with you and be returned to Project Homecoming staff at the end of the week.

Supplies, Materials, and Tools

- Project Homecoming does many different types of projects, from painting to full house rebuilding. The coordination of those projects happens through the site management teams discussed above.
- Construction Managers and Work Site Managers work together prior to volunteer arrival to ensure that there is a plan for the site, and that all tools and materials are available prior to volunteer arrival.
- Because construction plans can change, there may be tool or material needs throughout the week for which plans were not made. This is why Work Site Managers are on site. Communicate with your Work Site Managers if any materials or tools you need are not available, and they will make them available as soon as possible.



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Age Policy

- Any group with youth ages 16-17 will need to have a **ratio of one adult to every three youth**
- Any group with youth ages 14 and 15 year-olds can volunteer, but those 14 and 15 year-olds **must have a parent/guardian** with them on their site and there must be a **ratio of one adult to every three youth**.

No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to operate the following power tools:

- Table Saw
- Circular Saw
- Reciprocating Saw
- Nail Gun
- Grinder
- ‘Chop’ saw or Compound Miter Saw
- Corded ½” drill used for drilling.
- Radial Arm Saw
- Powder Actuated Nailer (‘RamSet’)
- Jigsaw
- Belt Sander

Youth under the age of 18 will be allowed to operate the following power tools, provided they have received training by a qualified adult:

- Corded drywall drill
- Cordless Drill
- Corded ½” drill – only for mixing paint, drywall joint compound, or thin-set.
- Palm sander



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Work Day

The work day will begin around 8:30am and goes until around 4:00pm. These times can vary depending on activities and group. Most volunteers will work at work sites, however, there are always things to do around the center preparing for future volunteers and keeping the center running smoothly. **Please inform staff if there are people in your group who would like to work at the village.**

We are working in communities that are rebuilding from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. Because of the nature of the project, you will typically work on the same project all week. As we finish some projects, we will begin others.

You will be tentatively assigned a work site via email a few days before your arrival. The first day of work (on Monday), you will meet the Work Site Manager from the Project Homecoming staff who will work with you during the week.

Each site will have a Work Site Manager that is in charge of the project. Each site will also have a Construction Manager that is a professional and in charge of 3-5 worksites. The Work Site Manager will be onsite with you every day. You will talk to your Work Site Manager daily about your projects and any needs and/or questions you may have. The Work Site Manager will be available to answer questions and assist where necessary.

Each work crew will receive a project file for the project where you are working. You will take this project file with you to the worksite and use it as a resource. The Project File will contain the following:

- Homeowner bios or other work site information.
- Directions to the worksite.
- Directions to the nearest hospital.
- Injury Report Forms - to be filled out in case of any injury.
- Project Homecoming Contact Information.
- Blank Sheets to leave messages to the homeowner or neighborhood association.



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Daily Schedule

Initial Arrival

Plan to arrive between 1 PM and 5 PM on the Sunday of the week you will be working. If you are unable to arrive in this timeframe, your arrival must be cleared by Project Homecoming staff.

Sunday

1pm-5pm: Welcome and Registration at Olive Tree Volunteer Village

6:30pm: Dinner

7:30pm: Village Orientation

10 pm: Quiet Time

Monday

7am: Breakfast/ Lunch Preparation/ Morning Chores

8am: Project Homecoming Orientation

9am-4:30pm: Worksites

4:30pm: Dinner Preparation

4:30pm- 6:30: Shower and Free Time

6:30: Dinner

7:30: Evening Activities and Devotions

10pm: Quiet Time

Tuesday – Thursday

7 am: Breakfast/ Lunch Preparation/ Morning Chores

8:30am-4:30pm: Worksites

4:30pm: Dinner Preparation

4:30pm- 6:30: Shower and Free Time

6:30: Dinner

7:30: Evening Activities and Devotions

10pm: Quiet Time

Friday

7 am: Breakfast/ Lunch Preparation/ Morning Chores

8:30am-4:30pm: Worksites

4:30pm- 6:30: Shower and Free Time

Dinner and Evening Activities on your own

Saturday

Check out by noon.



FAQ: Project Homecoming Operations

How much work has been done? What is the state of the need in New Orleans? Why isn't everyone back in their homes?

In November, 2011 there were 40,541 blighted properties or empty residential lots in New Orleans, representing damaged or demolished properties due to Hurricane Katrina. That number is down from 65,428 in March of 2008. There are currently around 100,000 fewer residents in the city than before the storm, with some still trying to return. The largest demographics lagging behind as far as numbers of people returned are African Americans and families with children.

Louisiana's "Road Home" program provided some financial assistance to Hurricane Katrina survivors whose homes were damaged by the storm, but statistics indicate that about 10,000 of these homeowners have not yet been able to complete the rebuilding of their homes. Some may have chosen not to rebuild, run out of funds or been ripped off by unscrupulous contractors.

How are homeowners and work projects selected?

- Homeowners are general served first-come-first serve. They must fit the following criteria: All those assisted are low-income, defined as having an income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income for New Orleans. They must also have a relatively clear title to the home, have owned the home before the storm (or in rare cases, have a good reason why they had to move), and do not have the resources to rebuild their home. Preference is given to disabled and elderly individuals.
- If a project does not involve the rebuilding of a storm damaged home owned by a Katrina survivor, the project must be located in hurricane damaged neighborhoods and the need for the project has been identified in partnership with a neighborhood association or community nonprofit or city agency.
- Next the project is evaluated to determine if the work can be done safely by volunteers.
- The final step is to secure funding. This can come from a number of sources (more funding information below).

Once the home is deemed constructible, and the funding is available to complete the majority of the home, the home is given a project number and is entered into a log of projects that are ready to begin. Before work begins, homeowners meet with Project Homecoming staff to review the project's Scope of Work and sign paperwork. The homeowner is also given a copy of the Project Homecoming Construction Standards and kept updated on the progress of the project.

Does Project Homecoming require any kind of "sweat equity"?

Project Homecoming does not specifically require homeowners to work on their houses, as many of the homeowners are physically unable to do so. However, homeowners commit to find at least one way that they can help Project Homecoming's mission or show their appreciation for the volunteers working on their home, such as cooking a meal for volunteers once a week or visiting the volunteers at the worksite. Some homeowners may be living out of state while they wait for their home to be rebuilt, and some have families and full-time jobs.



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Each homeowner’s situation is different, and the way that a homeowner can help is also different.

How can I donate to Project Homecoming?

All donations support the assistance that Project Homecoming provides persons who are low-income, uninsured, underinsured, elderly and/or disabled who are struggling to rebuild their homes following Hurricane Katrina.

Project Homecoming is a 501(c)3 organization, and your gifts are tax deductible. To donate to Project Homecoming, please write a check payable to “Project Homecoming.”

Send it to:

Project Homecoming
2221 Filmore Ave, New Orleans, LA 70122

You can also donate through PayPal on our website at www.projecthomecoming.net

The following programs are other ways in which you can donate.

Homes for Christmas

Instead of purchasing a gift for someone who has everything, consider buying in their name a special gift of drywall, cabinets, a door, or flooring that will help someone in need. When you make a donation in someone’s name as a present, you not only are giving a family a home, but strengthening a community and investing in the future of New Orleans. 100% of all money given to “Homes for Christmas” goes directly to the purchase of building materials for a homeowner needing assistance.

Gifts can be made online through Paypal or sent in a check made payable to, “Project Homecoming.” Include “Homes for Christmas” in the memo line. We will then send you a custom card so that you can document your gift to your loved one.

See our breakdown of donation prices and what it can fund on our website.

General Donations

General donations are used by Project Homecoming where they are needed most to support the overall operations. Whether it be rent and utilities for the warehouse, construction equipment and tools, or stipends for construction assistants, there are expenses that need to be covered to in order for Project Homecoming to continue this ministry.

Project Homecoming has set a goal to raise \$100,000 in donations from individuals and churches in 2012. Although this may seem like a lofty goal, if each volunteer raised or contributed \$150.00, we would easily exceed this goal. It is always hardest to raise money for operational costs, but if everyone does their part, this will be an easy goal to reach. Please consider an individual donation, or talk with your Church about including Project Homecoming in your annual budget for mission giving.

General donations to Project Homecoming should be made payable to “Project Homecoming.”

Adopt-A-Home

Churches may wish to partner with an individual or family who do not have the funding needed to complete the rebuild of their home. Through this partnership, you support those needing assistance with prayer and encouragement while also raising funds for the rebuild of their home. When you “Adopt-A-Home,” 100% of the funds raised go directly towards building materials and costs of installing electrical, plumbing, and HVAC.



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Project Homecoming can connect you with the household you are assisting so that you can build a mutual relationship with them. You are also encouraged to track the progress on the homes you adopt through the Project Homecoming website and to send notes to the homeowner when the house is dedicated.

Funds raised for the particular home you have “adopted” should be sent in a check made payable to “Project Homecoming” and the Name or Address of the home you wish to Adopt should be in the memo line. Please help these deserving families get back into their homes.

Where does funding come from?

“When people ask me where our funding comes from, I tell them straightforwardly, and with a smile, that funding for our rebuilding effort usually comes from people who ask where the funding comes from” -Tex Evans, Founder, Appalachia Service Project

❖ Funding for Construction Costs of Projects:

Funding for materials, subcontractors, and equipment comes from many sources. For rebuilds, homeowners are asked to put whatever resources they have available toward the project. Some homeowners have money from insurance or programs like Road Home. Often times this funding is not enough to hire a contractor to do the work, but is enough to pay for materials while we manage the rebuild and volunteers provide the labor. Funding also comes from organizations like the Red Cross, Salvation Army, or other large philanthropic businesses. If all other resources are exhausted, Project Homecoming uses “Unmet Needs funds” that have come from grants or donations. Volunteers who organize fundraising campaigns and donate funds themselves play a major role in recovery. The “Homes for Christmas” or “Adopt a Home” funds are a way for congregations, groups, and volunteers to donate to the costs of these projects.

❖ Administrative Overhead:

Now that Project Homecoming is a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity, we will seek private foundation grants and state and federal funding for operations into the future. The successful selection of Project Homecoming by the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority to receive funding through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP2) funded by HUD is an example of the direction we hope to continue to take toward sustainability. Funding also comes from contributions made by individuals and churches.

How else can I help?

The news is no longer telling the story of the ongoing challenges faced by survivors of Katrina as neighborhoods struggle to rebuild. You are our most effective advocates in telling the story of the recovery and the work still to be done in New Orleans. We can help to provide you with DVDs, brochures, and other information that assists you in fundraising and in speaking about what you have experienced in New Orleans. .

What type of work can volunteers do and not do?

Project Homecoming is proud that its volunteers come with a myriad of skill levels. Volunteers have done virtually every aspect of rebuilding except those prohibited by local code. The majority of the work that volunteers do is listed below.



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Home Construction (in general order of frequency):

- Ceramic Tile Installation
- Bamboo Floor Installation
- Painting
- Siding (Hardi Plank, and other repair)
- Insulating
- Door Installation
- Trim Installation
- Drywall Installation and Finishing
- Window Installation
- Framing
- Roofing

The following are tasks that licensed contractors from other states cannot perform as a result of local building codes:

- Major Plumbing
- Major Electrical
- Major HVAC Work

What does the future look like for Project Homecoming?

Project Homecoming is now a 501(c)3 nonprofit community development organization that maintains an affiliation with the Presbytery of South Louisiana, Presbyterian Church (USA). Our mission is to continue to support the long-term recovery of distressed neighborhoods through affordable housing initiatives and community-based partnerships.

Project Homecoming has built a strong reputation through quality construction, emphasis on community-based partnerships, commitment to green building, and efficient and effective use of volunteers. The fact that the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority selected Project Homecoming to build 8 new homes and renovate 6 as part of the NSP2 program bodes well for the future. It is hoped that this collaboration with NORA will be the beginning of additional opportunities for Project Homecoming to acquire storm damaged vacant lots or blighted properties for redevelopment into affordable housing and other neighborhood initiatives. The news is no longer telling the story of the ongoing challenges faced by survivors of Katrina as neighborhoods struggle to rebuild. Volunteers are our most effective advocates in telling the story of the recovery and the work still to be done in New Orleans.



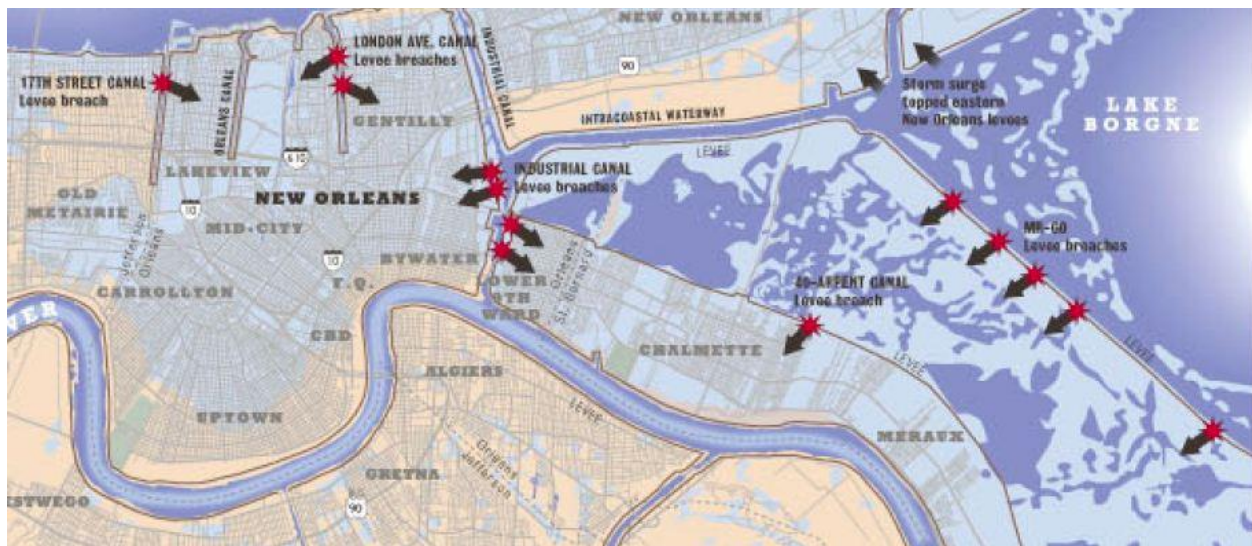
FAQ: Hurricane Katrina

What category was Hurricane Katrina?

As Katrina approached the Gulf Coast it was a category 5 but when it made landfall in southeast Louisiana it was downgraded to a category 3. Katrina was the largest hurricane of its strength to approach the United States in recorded history; its sheer size caused devastation over 100 miles from the storm's center. The storm surge caused major or catastrophic damage along the coastlines of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Katrina was the 11th named storm, fifth hurricane, third major hurricane and second category 5 hurricane of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season. It was also the sixth strongest hurricane ever recorded, and the third strongest hurricane to make landfall in the U.S. ever recorded.

What happened with the levees?

The storm surge had severely taxed the city's inadequate levee system built by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MR-GO) breached its levees in approximately 20 places flooding much of eastern New Orleans, nearly all of Saint Bernard Parish and the East Bank of Plaquemines Parish. The major levee breaches in the city included breaches at the 17th Street Canal levee, the London Avenue Canal, and the wide, navigable Industrial Canal, which left approximately 80% of the city flooded. There were three major breaches at the Industrial Canal; one on the upper side near the junction with MR-GO, and two on the lower side along the Lower Ninth Ward, between Florida Avenue and Claiborne Avenue. The 17th Street Canal levee was breached on the lower (New Orleans West End) side inland from the Old Hammond Highway Bridge, and the London Avenue Canal breached in two places, on the upper side just back from Robert E. Lee Boulevard, and on the lower side a block in from the Mirabeau Avenue Bridge. Flooding from the breaches put the majority of the city under water for days, in many places for weeks. The map below marks which levees were breached.





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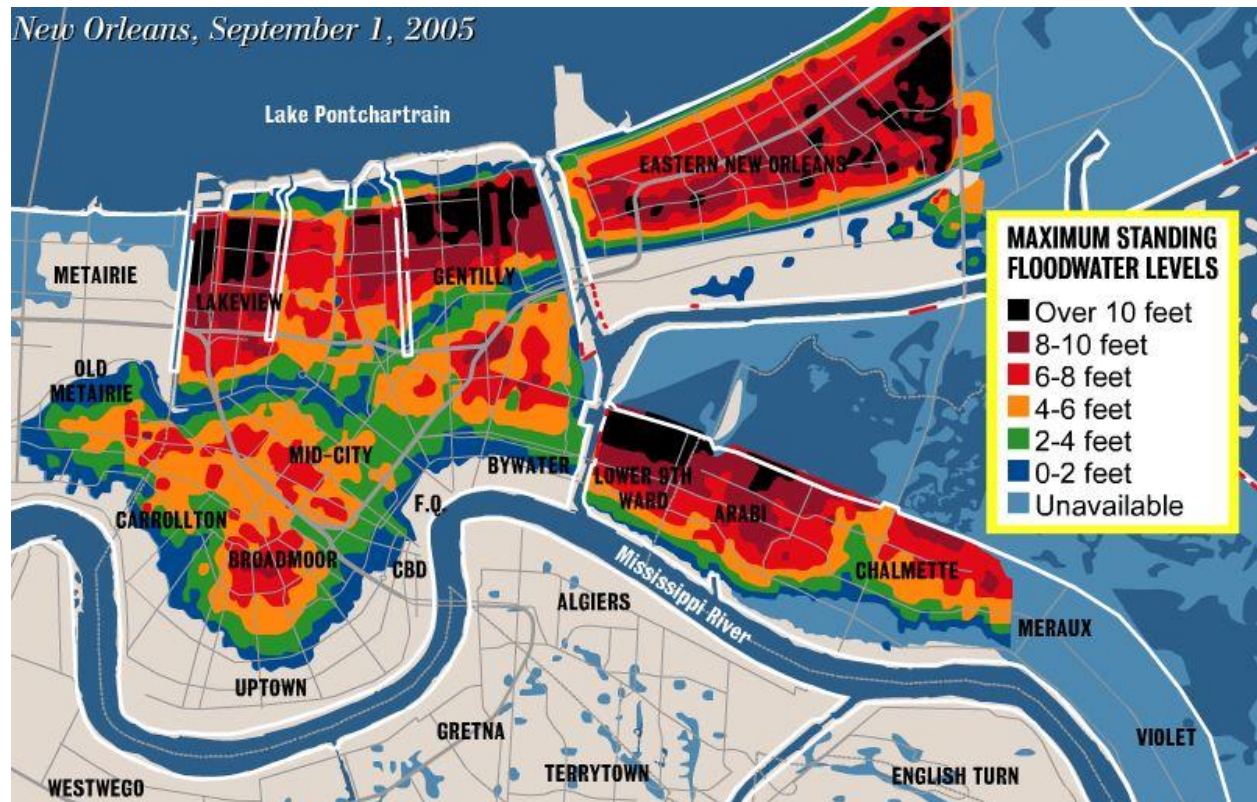
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New Orleans' levee failures were found to be primarily the result of system design flaws, combined with the lack of adequate maintenance. According to an investigation by the National Science Foundation, those responsible for the conception, design, construction and maintenance of the region's flood-control system apparently failed to pay sufficient attention to public safety. A report released by the American Society of Civil Engineers in June 2007 concluded that two-thirds of the flooding in the city could have been avoided if the levees had held.

How high was the water from the flooding?

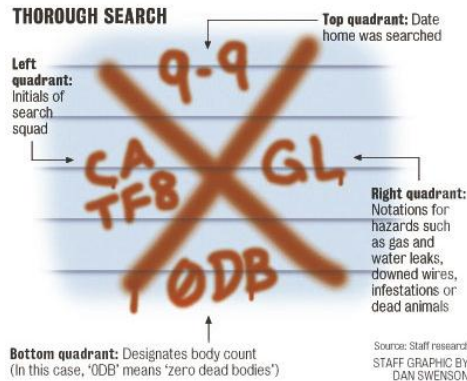
When the levees protecting New Orleans failed in August 2005, approximately 80 percent of the city was flooded. The business district and main tourist centers were relatively undamaged, but vast expanses of many New Orleans neighborhoods were inundated, making Katrina the largest residential disaster in U.S. history. The extent of damage varied greatly from one part of town to another. Some areas received one foot of flooding while others were submerged by more than 10 feet. The most flooded areas were Lakeview, Gentilly, New Orleans East, and the Lower Ninth Ward where flooding reached over 10 ft. Parts of Broadmoor were under 6-10 ft of water. Midcity, Carrollton, and Old Metairie were under about 4-8 ft of water. The areas with minimal to no flooding were the French Quarter and Uptown. The map below shows the flooding by neighborhood.





How many people died in Hurricane Katrina?

Hurricane Katrina and the levee failures resulted in the deaths of at least 1,464 Louisiana residents. The major causes of death include: drowning (40%), injury and trauma (25%), and heart conditions (11%). Nearly half of all victims were over the age of 74.



What does the “X” marking mean on the houses?

Every house, scathed or not, in the flooded areas was marked with a spray-painted “X” and other notations within the four sections of the mark. The top quadrant was the date the home was searched. The right quadrant was for notations for hazards such as gas and water leaks, infestations or dead animals. The left quadrant is for the initials of the search squad. The bottom quadrant designates the dead body count. A hasty search was indicated by a single slash.

Other Katrina Facts and Figures:

Displaced residents. The storm displaced more than a million people in the Gulf Coast region. Many people returned home within days, but up to 600,000 households were still displaced a month later. At their peak, hurricane evacuee shelters housed 273,000 people and, later, FEMA trailers housed at least 114,000 households.

Population decrease. The population of New Orleans fell from 484,674 before Katrina (April 2000) to an estimated 208,548 after Katrina (July 2006) — a decrease of 276,126 people and a loss of over half of the city’s population. By April of 2010, the population was back up to 343,829 — 71% of what it was in 2000.

Housing damage. Katrina damaged more than a million housing units in the Gulf Coast region. About half of these damaged units were located in Louisiana. In New Orleans alone, 134,000 housing units — 70% of all occupied units — suffered damage from Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent flooding.

Total damages. The total damages from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were \$150 billion — \$135 billion from Katrina and \$15 billion from Rita.

Recovery funding. Of the \$120.5 billion in federal spending, the majority — approximately \$75 billion — went to emergency relief, not rebuilding. Philanthropic giving, while more than double the giving for either the 2004 South Asian Tsunami or 9/11, was only \$6.5 billion. Meanwhile, private insurance claims covered less than \$30 billion of the losses.