

**Rebuild a
Home
Restore a Life**



**June 14—21
2008**

Special points of interest:

- 17 Volunteers journeyed to New Orleans to rebuild Julie's Home
- Teams' ages ranged from 24 to 80
- The team logged in 889 hours for an average work day of 10.5 hours
- Julie's Hope donors contributed over \$12,000 for lodging, gas and building materials
- Donors also gave 2 trailers full of food, furniture, kitchen & bathroom cabinets

PRAISE BE TO GOD!!



Julie in her new kitchen! Christi's co-workers from the Hair Cuttery donated boxes & boxes of food to stock Julie's new kitchen. Plus, they donated over \$500.00 in Home Depot Gift Cards.

Letter from Julie . . .

This is not the final Chapter in Julie's Hope but one I happily close. I moved the last box out of the FEMA Castle on August 25, 2008. almost 3 years to the date of Katrina. Then on August 29, I found myself packing and putting up things in preparation for Hurricane Gustave. I spent August 31 - September 8 inside University Hospital working.

I was scared for a moment when the Gentilly side of the Industrial Canal began to overtop. It turned out okay and there was no street flooding. I had a lot

of leaves and tree limbs to pick up but I did that happily. On Saturday, September 27th, at 5:40 p.m. they



Adiós FEMA Trailer!

pulled the FEMA Castle away. They cleaned it on the spot and one of the guys said he believed it to be headed to Texas. I have enclosed some of the pictures I took as they were dismantling the foundation.

It feels so good to be Home again. I think of everyone often and sing the praises of God's good work and the angels he sent to me. I pray for each of you and I read the reflection you guys wrote at least weekly.

Many Blessings and Much Love to all!

~ Julie



A beautiful view—Julie's Home without the FEMA Trailer!

Julie's Hope Partners . . . Thank you for your support!!

The Congregation of St. John's stand in awe of the power of our God.

Some gave of their talents. Men & woman from outside of our church community heard God's call and joined the Julie's Hope Team.

Some gave of their treasure. Gifts came from our members, friends, family, and co-workers. Donors gave cash, food some gave furniture, and even kitchen & bathroom cabinets! Julie's Hope received enough gas money, plenty of Home Depot cards &

furniture for every room. God provided exactly what we needed.

Many prayed. Indeed, God was faithful to the prayers of His people. He provided safe travel, wonderful accommodations, marvelous meals,

terrific fellowship, and a cohesive team working without incident for a common purpose.

Together God's people made a difference in the life of one of His own.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

"Your constant prayer support keep us safe from harm and allowed us to serve our God with joyful hearts."

New Orleans Here we Come!

June 14

We gathered together at 6:30 Saturday morning in the St. John's parking lot--15 travelers and a smaller, no less dedicated group of well wishers/family members.

After 11 hours of driving and one hour divided between various gas stops and a lunch break, we all arrived at our destination, Hernando United Methodist Church, The Gateway to New Orleans.

At HUMC, we were treated to a very tasty dinner of chicken, cole slaw, beans, sweet potato pie and chocolate cake. After dinner and a brief time for devotions, everybody ended up falling asleep early to prepare for the next day's drive. (Time: 9:30 PM)

June 15

(Time: 6:00 AM) Wake up time came early on Sunday, and after shaking off the morning grogginess and getting as clean as we could without showers, the group headed to the dining hall for an even better meal than the night before. Along with homemade biscuits and grits, we were treated to ham, a fruit salad and fresh made eggs. How good the food at Hernando was can not be overstated, it was simply fantastic. After a few more gas stops and a lunch stop, we finally arrived in New Orleans. After cleaning up and resting a little bit, we left the Bethlehem Volunteer Center where we are staying and went to meet Julie... (Time: 5:00 PM) — Ed Burns



Our arrival to Julie's Home. She was so excited to see us! As we departed for a special dinner in downtown New Orleans, Julie informed us that this would be the last time we'd see the "glamorous Julie" Beginning the next day, it would be jeans and sweats!

The Work Begins . . .

June 16

The work has begun, though we're off to a slow start. The biggest project this morning was determining what building materials were needed to do the job. After the list was made, a party of three departed, with a trailer, to reduce the inventory at Home Depot. While the shoppers were at Home Depot, the rest of us worked hard to clean up and smooth out the drywall mud that Julie and her brother had applied. After the trailer arrived, the drywalling began. By the end of the day the front living room, that was just insulated yesterday, was drywalled

and had its first coat of mud. John wants to replace a couple of existing dry-wall areas tomorrow. After that, the mudding will be finished and the room made ready for primer. We also started drywalling the two remaining bedrooms after a group installed insulation in the ceiling. Virtually all day, Art and Christi Osburn worked on the kitchen walls. By the end of the day, the walls were drying and ready for the final coat of mud We worked until almost 7:30, when it simply got too dark in the house (no electricity yet) and we all just ran out of gas.

— Gary Parr



Mark Petersdorff in position to hang another piece of drywall

"We Worked Like Dogs"



Don's hanging insulation in the bedroom, enduring the hot temps

June 17

We worked like dogs all day today, from our 8:00 arrival until we left at 5:00. There was a clear determination among the group to get the dry-wall hung and move the mudding process toward completion. As a result, we made a ton of progress. We have just a few small pieces of dry-wall to hang tomorrow and many of the rooms are ready for final finishing and then priming. The holdup will be the

humidity. Much of the mud that should have dried overnight was still quite damp and not accepting a second coat. There is potential that we'll have a lot of idle time Wednesday as we wait for mud to dry. We have fans blowing all over the house, but can't leave the windows open overnight because we can't risk vandals/thieves entering the house looking for valuables to steal. The lower humidity will be a big help.

At about 2:00 in the afternoon, at just the right moment, the Ice Cream Man cometh! Even if Julie's neighborhood wasn't on his Tuesday route, we were all sure

he'd have driven across town to sell us more ice cream. And you can bet your boots we bought it, too. Ice cream for everyone!
- Gary Parr



Anna takes on the power drill in the extra bedroom

First you Rock, then you Mud . . .

June 18

Art Osburn, the professional cabinet guy, has to teach some of us the rudiments of sheet rock installation. I learned some new construction lingo. First, you rock, then you mud, next you scrap the buggers and finally you scrap up the turds. Due to my few skills, I was assigned to the Shop Vac - so you know my job assignment for the day. In the evening our Team boss, Linda Burmeister, who happens to be my daughter, gave us the night off to tour the Katrina damaged areas and visit the French Quarter. A must, is a cup chicory coffee and a powdered beignet at the Cafe DuMond. We were all dressed in our "Julie's Hope" red shirts so we stood out in the crowd. The

"Celebration" church team spotted us and stopped by to compare experiences. We found out that we are living in the lap of luxury at the Bethlehem Volunteer Center. The Celebration Camp only has 6 showers for 300 people. Bethlehem has 15 showers for 60 people. The Lutherans really know how to live. I can report that our team behaved themselves on the French Quarter walk about. Not due to their exemplary character but because we have to be back at camp by 10:30 p.m. or there is a lockout. Right now, the streets of New Orleans is not a good place to camp out.

Meeting all the Christians, of all denominations, working so diligently, makes you feel the "Communion of Saints". All the prayers are helping each of us to be Jesus' hands and feet to help

of us to be Jesus' hands and feet to help the people restore their homes and spirits. This is my second trip to New Orleans and I can see the progress - one house at a time - one life restored. Praise the Lord.

- Mary Long



Cliff & Debbie Beck No work to do Tuesday evening. . . . Perfect excuse to head to the French Quarter and to Café Du Monde's for café au lait and beignets!

Julie Models the Consummate Team Member



Art & Julie enjoying spaghetti dinner brought from Camp for

the late night workers.

June 19

Julie was in the middle of everything all day. Every time you turned around she was helping hang drywall, taping a seam or picking up garbage. All that effort from a woman who the week before worked seven 12-hour days.

One of the trailers we brought down was stuffed to the gills with cabinets and furniture. That trailer was emptied and the ladies wiped everything down, cleaned it and prepared it to be placed in Julie's house.

During our lunch break the past two days, we've discussed the neighborhood and how it doesn't look much different from when some of us first saw it in 2006. Most of the neighborhood seems to be abandoned. Julie has only seen her next door neighbor once since the storm, and their house is literally falling apart from the rot.

- Mark Petersdorff



Doug spent most of the week restoring both of Julie's bathrooms



Mary scrubbed the Katrina grime from the windows and cleaned to a brilliant shine!

Julie's a Friend Forever

June 19

When we left Julie's house last night at 10:00 PM, she told us that she would probably be crying today. She told us that the tears would be a mixture of tears of joy for how far her house had come and for all the help and blessings she had received, as well as tears of sorrow for the group leaving so soon. It's only been a few days, but I

think it's safe to say that every member of the team considers Julie a friend and will be feelings exactly the same way that she is today. We've done so much but there's still work to be done.

- Ed Burns



Ed removing the last traces of Katrina



June 20th—our last work day. We accomplished so much:

- Drywalled several rooms
- Sanded, primed and painted the entire house
- Installed kitchen cabinets, countertops & appliances
- Installed 2 bathroom vanities, tub surrounds and restored plumbing
- Power washed the exterior and washed the windows, inside & out

But, the job was not complete!
The floors were bare!

We departed for home, but John & Cathy's hearts remained in New Orleans. On July 20th, they made a return trip to Julie's and devoted 5 days to complete the job we started.

Julie's Hope Team

The group that converted Julie's house from studwork to a home in five days (l-r back row): Mary Long, Don Long, Ed Burns, Doug Naatz, Mark Petersdorff, Julie Newman, Cliff Beck, Linda Burmeister, Art Osburn, Dennis Burmeister, John May, Gary Parr. Front row, l-r: Debbie Beck, Sue Stroup, Cathy Johnson, Elizabeth Hones, Christi Osburn. Not shown: Anna Martell, who flew home Thursday, and the hundreds, and maybe thousands, who prayed for us and for Julie and donated money, supplies, and furniture. If you look closely you'll see the Lord's presence



Photo Gallery



Kitchen before and after



Making Julie's House a Home

Julie's Reflections

Father I have never been one to question your will, but today you allowed me to awaken with 2 eyes 2 see, I say not enough, 2 ears to hear, I say not enough, a mouth to speak, I say not enough, a mind to think with, I say not enough, a heart to feel with, still I say not enough. Not enough My Father, to express all the Joy, Love, Sharing, the Learning, and the Feelings of being among your Angels hear on Earth this past 3 months. For that I Thank You!

To everyone at St John's Lutheran Church, I say THANK YOU! Whether you were in a place to make a monetary donation, say a prayer with me in mind, supported a love one's effort to contribute to Julie's Hope, etc. To my brothers and sisters that it took Hurricane Katrina for me to meet and to get to spend a week with, and mom and dad, you know I am crying as I write this. Mary, Don, Linda, Dennis, Cathy, John, Christie, Art, Doug, Gary, Cliff (Craig), Debbie, Anna, Ed, Elizabeth, Mark, and Sue, you know the address, you know your spot.

- Julie Newman

Each day Julie faced many decisions. Dennis & Art offer their expertise.

