

National News: Fifty for Five

Rebuilding Together will celebrate the unwavering spirit of the Gulf Coast and New Orleans as another fifty homes are rehabilitated, and Rebuilding Together comes closer to the pledge of 1,000 homes completed in the Gulf. Community block parties, local music and entertainment, a thousand volunteers, and celebrities will be present at project sites all week; creating one of the biggest impact projects New Orleans has experienced since the first hurricane in 2005.

Participate, watch and contribute as Rebuilding Together rebuilds and reclaims New Orleans as the city it once was.

Visit the [Fifty for Five micro website](#) for additional details and to learn how to participate.

[Read the official press release](#)

Date - August 24 - 28, 2010

Location - Gentilly Neighborhood

City - New Orleans

State - Louisiana



Our Impact in Calcasieu Parish:

Homes served to date since 2005:

260

Homes served in 2010 to date:

19

Number of projects in 2010 to date:

22

Projected number of homes in 2010:

60

Volunteers to date since 2005:

2138

Number of volunteers in 2010 to date:

242

Projected number of volunteers in 2010:

449

Total labor donated to date:

\$ 282,373.61

And we aren't finished yet!



IN THIS ISSUE

National Rebuilding Day
Upcoming Events
President's Message
Thanks to Sponsors & Donors
Local Project: Herman Clavier
Board of Directors
National News and Statistics
How You Can Help



OUR VISION

A safe, secure and weatherproof home for every person.

OUR MISSION

"Bringing volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners."

If you would like to donate or get involved please contact us at the information provided.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Rebuilding Together-Calcasieu
P.O. Box 3758
Lake Charles, LA 70602

337.478.1755
www.rtcalscasieu.org



National Rebuilding Day:

Rebuilding Together – Calcasieu Mobilizing 300 Volunteers over 4 Weekends to Assist Calcasieu Parish Homeowners in Need

National Rebuilding Day is our signature annual event. This event occurs in April and is the culmination of a year of planning, evaluating, training, organizing, and mobilizing hundreds of community volunteers. The projects were completed because of the generosity of our terrific sponsors, the engagement of our local skilled trade partners, and the tremendous expression of volunteerism.



This year's National Rebuilding Day turned into a month-long rebuilding saga which ended with 12 houses being repaired! We had amazing volunteer groups working with us and we are incredibly grateful for all their hard work.

Special recognition goes to Board Member, Dr. Mike Kurth, who joined forces with his students from McNeese University to volunteer for a day, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 106.

This year's volunteer groups were Cricket Communications/McNeese State University students; Trinity Baptist Church; Catholic Charities with Sowela Technical Community College; Capital One Bank; ConocoPhillips, Inc. with W. R. Grace; Entergy with City of Lake Charles; Henning Methodist with Sulphur Kiwanis; Sasol North America Inc., SWLA Realtors Association, Whitney Bank with The Vineyard.

Upcoming Events



Painting with a Twist – August 8
We are partnering up with Painting with a Twist to paint with a purpose! Go to www.paintingwithatwist.com for more information and to register for this event. Class begins at 2:00 on August 8th and the cost is \$45. Proceeds go toward the organization's mission. **Seating is limited so sign up today!!**



Fifty for Five Rebuild- August 24-28:

Rebuilding Together – Calcasieu will be traveling to New Orleans to celebrate the work that has been done since Hurricane Katrina devastated the city in 2005. Rebuilding Together has a national initiative to rebuild 1,000 homes on the Gulf.

Cricket Rebuild – Fall 2010

We are excited to be working with Cricket Communications in the fall to rebuild the home of a low-income homeowner in Calcasieu Parish.

To volunteer, contact us through our website: www.rtcalscasieu.org

President's Message



Good news...bad news - Our community is changing. Unfortunately, it is not for the better at this time, economically speaking. We are blessed to have rich heritage, solid faith and a natural love for our fellow South Louisianians, but our neighbors are suffering silently from excessive heat, inflated prices, lowered wages and job loss. It is hard enough for some to pay the bills and buy groceries; there is certainly nothing left for home maintenance. Many of our residents pay excessive cooling bills because their homes are not energy efficient while some are not even weatherproof! Whatever can we do????

We can send Rebuilding Together - Calcasieu to the rescue! Our mission is to bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners. These homeowners, who worked hard to buy and pay for their own houses many years ago, want to remain in their homes. RTC wants to help them do so by making those homes safe, secure and weatherproof. The last few months have been a whirlwind of action in coordinating local and visiting volunteer groups along with the sponsors needed to rehabilitate over 20 homes in the area. People from all over SWLA and as far away as California have replaced roofs, ceilings, walls, floors, commodes, bathtubs, sinks, electrical boxes, doors, screens, vents, molding, steps, caulked AND painted inside and out! Our sweet recipients have been overwhelmed by what has been accomplished in just a day or two by these awesome volunteers.

Do you have a neighbor in need? Most of them won't ask for help, but please find a way to let them know there is help available! Have them call the RTC office for an application for assistance today.

WE NEED YOU...to sponsor a home, volunteer for a day of hard work (and wonderful fellowship), or make a contribution to our program. We also need to get the word out to potential candidates so they can apply to receive these benefits. Please join us in one of the most rewarding things you could do in a single day. Opportunities for volunteers to participate in a rehab are available throughout the year. We love our donors too...whether you can give \$5 or \$5,000; every dollar furthers our cause and our impact in our own neighborhoods! Please join us and make a difference today.

Special thanks to Ann and Edwin Hunter for hosting our spring fundraiser and for all those who gave from their hearts. We could not do this without your support.

Blessings,
Melody Jackson
President, RTC

(Business and personal contributions are welcome! Please visit www.rtcalscasieu.org to learn more.)

"Music on the River" Fundraiser

Rebuilding Together - Calcasieu enjoyed an incredibly successful fundraiser, graciously hosted by Board Member Ann Hunter.

Thank you to all of our wonderful donors, whose generous contributions will help sustain our organization.

Billy Navarre
Jim Cerra
George Duchmann
Gregory Robert
Karen Harrell
Shelia and Paul Ponders
Shayna Sonnier
A.W. and Patricia Prebula
Charles and Janet Seymour
Frank Assunto
Willie and Wanda Cooper



If you are fortunate enough to have a safe, secure home, please consider helping someone who doesn't...

Please select one and print clearly:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Please send notification of my gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Acknowledge the gift from:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mail your gift to: P.O. Box 3758, Lake Charles, LA 70602

Thank you for your generous contribution. Rebuilding Together - Calcasieu is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Local Project:

Update on Herman Clavier

Rebuilding Together has been working with various sponsors and volunteer groups since December of 2009 to get Herman Clavier back into his home. His house suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Rita in 2005 and he had been displaced since that time.

The Sulphur Kiwanis Club continued repairs on the interior of the house in mid-May. This volunteer group spent the day elbows deep in paint as they brightened the wood paneling of the house. They also painted and installed ceiling tiles and made great progress on the flooring.

Sasol North America worked on Herman's house on Saturday, May 22. They laid down new carpet, installed kitchen cabinets, put up trim, finished up lingering paint jobs, and installed a sink and vanity. They even leveled the steps on the back and side of the house, and built handrails to promote safety.

The Plumber's Union, Local 106, corrected serious plumbing issues for entire house and ran plumbing for a bathroom sink, water heater, and a washer and dryer.

Herman's house has been transformed. Herman has also been supported by the Sulphur Police and received a visit from the esteemed Mayor of Sulphur, Chris Duncan. Herman was given a key to the city of Sulphur and May 22 was declared "Herman Clavier Day". Thanks to the inexhaustible support of the community, the house has been restored and Herman is now back in his home!



Herman Clavier smiles as he receives a key to the City of Sulphur.



Brand new cabinets, counters, and appliances are installed to finish Herman's kitchen.

Statistics



- Low-income families often face a crisis, and may have to choose between heating or cooling their house and other basic needs.
- Low-income households spend an average 14% of their income on energy, versus 3.5% in most other households.
- Energy costs are expected to increase by nearly 10% from 2009.
- Saving energy saves money- money that can be used for other basic needs.
- Rebuilding Together strives to preserve affordable homeownership. One way we do this is by lowering energy use with Energy Efficient upgrades through our core home rehabilitation efforts.

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President
Melody Jackson

Vice President
Allison Chaumont

Treasurer
Charles Seymour

Secretary
Betty Ross

BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Canter

Karen Harrell

Ann Hunter

Mike Kurth

Clyde Mitchell

Reed Rhoden

Charmagne Turpeau

STAFF

Executive Director
Susan Me stayer

Assistant Director
Shavanah Whittaker

CapacityCorps
Adreanna Early