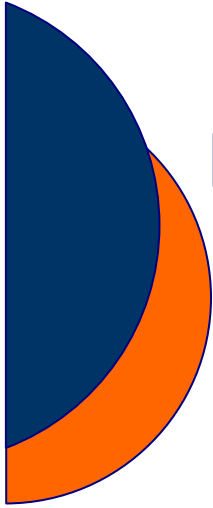


Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



LOUISIANA
Spirit
HURRICANE RECOVERY

Options for Independence ♦ 761 West Tunnel Boulevard, Suite D ♦ Houma, Louisiana 70360 ♦ 985-868-2620



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

This is a collection of stories designed to engage, inspire and transform readers as well as survivors of Hurricane Katrina. These stories, told by *Louisiana Spirit* and *Options for Independence* staff, as well as the heroes themselves, promote positive feelings, instill confidence, give direction and hope. The stories provide a wealth of knowledge of the work done by many in the aftermath of the hurricane.

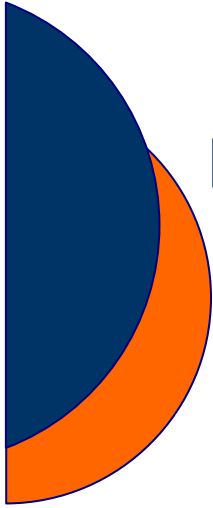
We realize that the stories within this document represent only a small segment of the hundreds, and probably thousands of “Unsung Heroes” that could have been featured. The strength of our humanity and care for each other is continually expressed through the efforts of everyone as we recover, rebuild and move forward in the aftermath Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Please enjoy the stories of Louisiana's Unsung Heroes. Each is a story of hope and determination. Individuals from Louisiana and throughout the United States recognized people with needs and reached out with a helping hand. These are stories of deeds large and small, all of which celebrate the power and dignity of simply caring for each other.

The individuals featured in this publication don't consider themselves heroic, but instead insist they simply are everyday people who acted without thinking or knowing who was watching their actions. The “Unsung Heroes” were not looking for recognition for their works, but these are the people who make up **Louisiana's “Human” Spirit.**



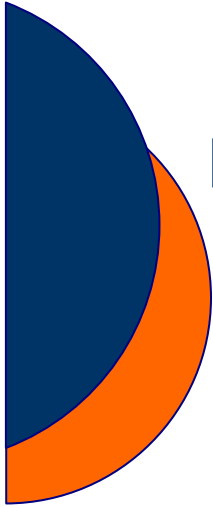
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY
OF HURRICANE KATRINA AND HURRICANE RITA
AUGUST 2007



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

Table of Contents

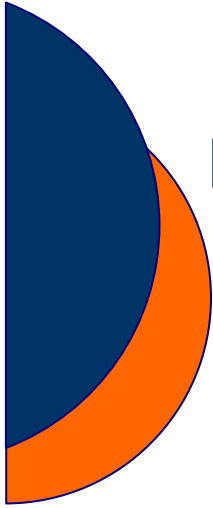
Erik Horne, St. John Parish	8
Rene Rhodes, Terrebonne Parish	9
Judy Papa, Lafourche Parish	10
Juggie Jones, Assumption Parish	11
Liza Thomas, Terrebonne Parish	12
Roosevelt Thomas, Terrebonne Parish	13
Georgia Naquin, Terrebonne Parish	14
Sylvia Young, Terrebonne Parish	15
Patty Whitney, Terrebonne Parish	16
Janice Jeanice, Lafourche Parish	17
Danyelle Small, Jefferson Parish	18
Ronald Wright, Orleans Parish	19
Beverly Harris, St. John Parish	20



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

Table of Contents

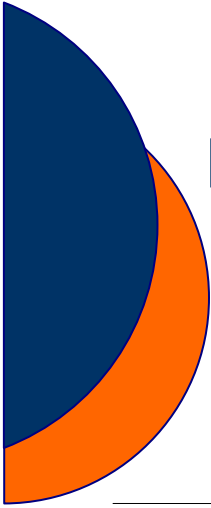
Abraham and Betty Turner, Assumption Parish	21
Sylvia Ann Lewis, Assumption Parish	22
Anna Daggs, Assumption Parish	23
Miyoshi Joseph, Assumption Parish	24
Errol Manual and Debra Poche, St. John Parish	25
Rev. Lisa Easterling, St. Charles Parish	26
Susan Wade, St. Charles Parish	27
Jon Akin, St. John Parish	28
Lt. Mike Hoover, St. John Parish	29
Frank W. Kidd, Terrebonne Parish	30
Chris Brunet, Terrebonne Parish	31
Bessie Lewis, Terrebonne Parish	32
Ruama Camp, St. John Parish	33



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

Table of Contents

Lester Rainey, St. John Parish	34
Corey Dion, Terrebonne Parish	35
Richard C. Thomas, Jefferson Parish	36
Rev. John Boss, Lafourche Parish	37
Brenda Dardar Robichaux, Terrebonne Parish	38
Pastor Steve O. Allen, Sr., St. John Parish	39
Eliza Eugene, St. Charles Parish	40
Carl and Rose Brady, St. John Parish	41
Terrell Turner, Terrebonne Parish	42
Bernadette Thibodaux, Terrebonne Parish	43
Gayle Duet, Lafourche Parish	44
Michele Starks, Lafourche Parish	45
Barbara Else, Tucson, Arizona	46



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

Table of Contents

Christine Stevens, California	44
Rev. Johnny Johnson, Assumption Parish	48
Rev. Neil Bernard, St. John Parish	49
River Parish Mental Health Advisory Board	50
Rev. Kirkland Aitken, Terrebonne Parish	51
Rev. Willie Bonvillian III, Terrebonne Parish	52
Albert Naquin, Terrebonne Parish	53
Dita DeHart, Terrebonne Parish	54
Zoenna Verret and Doris Billiot, Terrebonne Parish	55
Lisa Spiegel, New York City	56
Greg Harding, Terrebonne Parish	57
Shay and Mandy Holloway, Lafourche Parish	58
Becky Hebert, Lafourche Parish	59
Pastor Ronnie Melancon, Lafourche Parish	60
Sandy Holloway, Lafourche Parish	61
Walt Philpot, Lafourche Parish	62



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



**Erik Horne, Captain
Oglethorpe University
Soccer Team
Son of Sandra Horne**

As a senior at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia and son of Sandra Horne, a Crisis Counselor for Louisiana Spirit, Eric was instrumental in organizing a Stress-Free Soccer Camp for children who were living in FEMA transitional living sites in the River Parishes. Eric has played on Oglethorpe's soccer team for four years. He invited the Oglethorpe University coaches to continue participation in the soccer camp, which will be an annual event.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



H. Rene Rhodes
Volunteer Shelter Coordinator
Houma

As one of the first to come to the Houma – Terrebonne Civic Center after Hurricane Katrina, Rene saw the need for organization and teamwork as thousands poured through the door of the Civic Center. He stepped in to help assist people that he considers “his brothers and sisters of God” in their moments of despair. He asked evacuees to sign two doors as they registered at the Civic Center. The signed doors were featured in a ceremony marking the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Rita. Rene said the experience made him realize that he was destined to help friends and neighbors and to help those whose lives have been changed forever by the storm.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Judy Papa
Music Therapy Interventions
Thibodaux

Judy “The Music Therapist” Papa put on the song, "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman", by Aretha Franklin, for residents at the River Parishes transitional living site. Almost immediately, people starting singing, moving to the beat and a party began. The survivors began singing along, smiling, and looking through the sing-along books she provided for the next song to sing. Judy left the survivors with this lasting message, “Singing is free. It is a universal activity. Humming and whistling are right there, too. It can make you feel better in any situation.”



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Juggie Jones
Retired Counselor
Assumption Parish Public School System

“After Katrina, my husband and I invited five people into our home. They lost everything during this hurricane and lived with us from September 2005 until January 2006,” Juggie says. “They had access to everything in our house. In addition, we helped them to find various resources such as food, clothing and finances from different sources. We were happy to help them begin the healing process physically, emotionally as well as spiritually. They are still in the process of getting repairs to their home completed, but are scheduled to move in their home soon.”

Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Liza Thomas
Hurricane Survivor
Secretary, Options for Youth

“I was in the hospital at Touro Infirmary at the time of the storm for a heart related problem. I stayed there until the Wednesday after Katrina. Then, I was evacuated to the Houma Civic Center. I have six children and my mom was taking care of them while I was hospitalized. I was on the phone with them at the time the water began to rise. All I could hear was my son saying that Grandma was coming upstairs to get them. That's the last I heard from them before the phone went out. Nine days passed before I knew where my mom and kids were. During those days, I just prayed and asked God to let them be okay.”

“They went through a rough time of getting out of the house. Our neighbor put my family on the top of his truck while my son swam beside the truck to push them to the Superdome. Once there, they were bused to the Astrodome in Houston. Before going to Houston, they slept outside of the Superdome because of overcrowding. A lady saw them and took them to her church where they had set up a small shelter. Another kind individual went on a Web site and saw where I was located, called and assured me that my kids and mom were fine and gave me their location. I have a brother who lives in San Antonio, so he and my sister drove to Houston, got them, and took them back to their home until I could get to them.”

“Adore Starfish provided me with a plane ticket to San Antonio where I stayed for a few days. We came back to Houma on my birthday, September 15. We went back to the shelter, then to another shelter until I found a job with Louisiana Spirit Hurricane Recovery Program. I worked the shelter at Terrebonne Parish Civic Center while being sheltered there and doing outreach for Louisiana Spirit. I applied for a Habitat for Humanity home and received it. We are now living in the home and I am saving to buy a car.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



**Roosevelt Thomas
Team Leader
Louisiana Spirit Hurricane
Recovery Program, Houma**

Roosevelt was the first of 66 staff members hired when Louisiana Spirit began operations in the Houma area in November 2005. A member of the Terrebonne Parish School Board, he made certain that evacuated children went to a school nearest to the shelter where they were living.

Roosevelt helped to enroll the new residents into the schools with very little stress. He is a Trustee Chair at Plymouth Rock Baptist Church in Houma where much of the food and clothing distribution originated during the immediate aftermath of Katrina. In fact, Roosevelt took sheltered families to his own home for a shower and a little “get-away” from the shelter environment.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Georgia Konos Naquin, MT-BC Board Certified Music Therapist

Recognizing a need for musical instruments in the River Parishes area, Georgia contacted the American Music Therapy Association and received a \$650 donation. Georgia purchased a variety of drums used by a group of drummers, also survivors, who entertained survivors and Louisiana Spirit staff and brought enlightenment through their music.



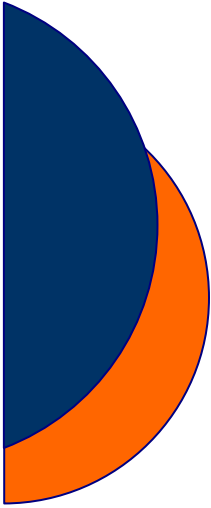
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Sylvia Young, Coordinator
Drop In Center
LaPlace

Sylvia left New Orleans with the intent to be gone for three days until the hurricane passed. The three days turned into nine months as Sylvia moved to three different cities. She was separated from her son during those nine months. He was living with his father in Mississippi.

They finally settled in Terrebonne Parish where Sylvia along with a group of volunteers built their Habitat for Humanity home. She and her son have been instrumental in organizing SOHO parenting sessions, picnics and recreational events similar to the events they had at their home in New Orleans.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

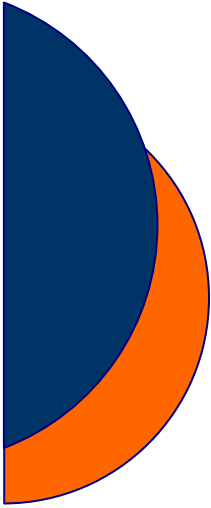


**Patty Whitney, Secretary
Bayou Interfaith Shared
Community Organizing (BISCO)
Thibodaux**

Patty was one of the first volunteers at Nicholls State University, where a Special Needs Shelter and a Regular Shelter had been set up. When Nicholls was ready to give the project to a community organization to operate, Patty was there to gather volunteers and thousands of evacuees came in from the New Orleans area.

Even after the shelter closed, she sent volunteers to different areas of the city for three months to help with the gathering and distribution of food, clothing, medicine, shelter and words of encouragement.

Patty is an active member of Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing (BISCO).



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Janice Jeanice

Janice reads to children at the Myra Cheramie Head Start in Lockport. Willing to do any task asked of her, Janice is always caring for others, getting reports, carrying boxes, loading musical instruments, setting up microphones, working puppet shows and acquiring music for the music therapists.

Janice has also been called patient, nurturing, the ultimate team worker and someone with a big, caring heart. The Lafourche-area Louisiana Spirit staff always says that they couldn't do half of the work without her help.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



**Danyelle Small
Slidell**

Danyelle and her friend, Grey, moved a family of five into their home after the storm. Danyelle and Grey helped the father find a job while helping to care for the mother, who suffered from colon cancer. Danyelle even helped with the chemotherapy treatments.

Unfortunately, the mother died shortly after coming to live with Danyelle and Grey. The children are still with Danyelle and Grey and are currently enrolled in school in.



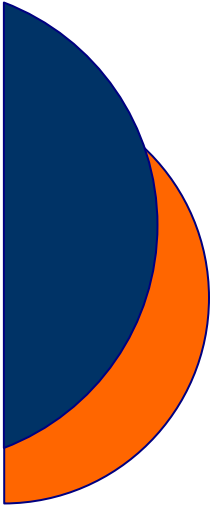
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Ronald Wright
New Orleans

Ronald lived in the Carrollton Avenue area in New Orleans and like thousands of others, he lost everything during Katrina. In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, Ronald helped people to evacuate out of nursing homes, their homes and those that were homeless. He helped them to find shelter, food, clothing, blankets or transportation out of the city.

After helping many people for a total of eight days, Ronald was overcome with grief. Ronald has vowed to continue to help with recovery efforts.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

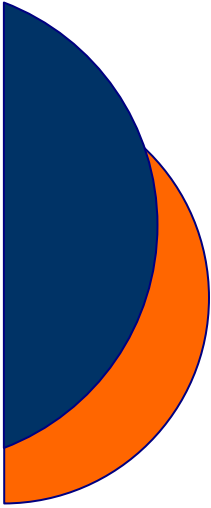


**Beverly Harris, President
St. John the Baptist Parish
Rotary Club**

As President of the St. John the Baptist Parish Rotary Club, Beverly has been instrumental in helping Louisiana Spirit Counselors and Outreach Workers gain access to the business community. She has featured Community Cultural Liaisons and Louisiana Spirit Team Leaders at the Rotary Club's weekly meetings on many occasions to discuss with community leaders vital issues surrounding hurricane recovery efforts.

Beverly continues her work in promoting hurricane recovery in addition to donating her time to meet and work with students and parents in the St. John the Baptist Parish Public School System who are making the adjustment to their new homes.

She has also provided food, clothing, and more to the hurricane survivors.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Abraham and Betty Turner

After Hurricane Katrina, Abraham and Betty took in four family members from the New Orleans area whose home had been destroyed. The families lived with the Turners from September 2005 through the end of January 2006.

Though difficult with the number of people living in their homes, the Turners insist they were very happy to help them. Betty says that this experience has brought her family closer together and they are all better people because of it.

Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Sylvia Ann Lewis

Sylvia (pictured, front) and Warren Lewis took in three families after the storm. They took these families after talking to them and hearing that they had no other living arrangements. There were 15 people in all living together. Sylvia and Warren also helped the families find clothing, shelter and other needs.

She says that the most important thing was to be there for the families to provide a listening ear or to try to bring a sense of normalcy in a crowded environment. "To take in and care for this many people was amazing," Sylvia said. "The families never got upset and were always lifting the spirits of each other. We really bonded and became a family."



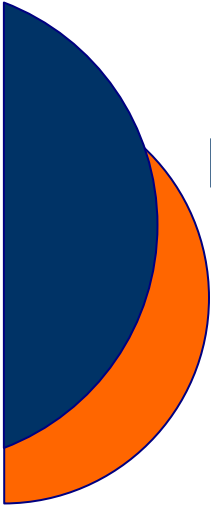
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Anna D. Daggs

As she thinks back to the days after Hurricane Katrina, Anna Daggs (front row, white dress) considered it to be a real pleasure to have two families in her home at once.

Anna cared for these two families complete with children and grandchildren, a total of sixteen people living in her trailer. Whether eating together, or getting ready for church or school, everyone was comfortable and very happy. Anna gave what she thought was the best she could offer to the families, a comfortable place to stay, lots of love and lots of hope for the future.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

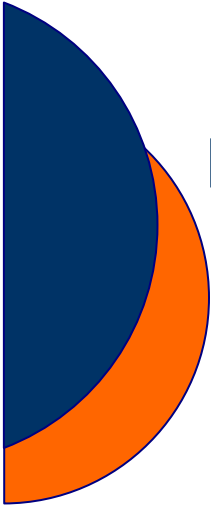


Miyoshi Joseph

Miyoshi and her husband, Paul, housed four family members after Katrina. The family members stayed with the Josephs for five months. The family tried to make their stay as pleasant as possible and identified resources available from within the parish and surrounding areas.

This was a very difficult time for everyone involved, but Miyoshi and Paul were happy help their family. This time also helped the family became closer to each other and developed a family relationship that had been previously strained.

The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina made them realize the importance of family. In late January 2006, the family members moved back to their home in New Orleans.



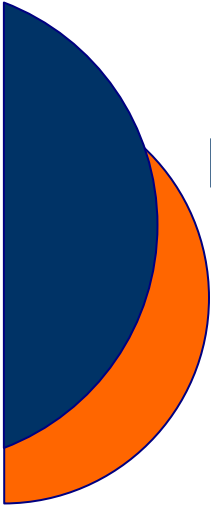
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



**Errol Manual, Director
St. John the Baptist Recreation
Department
and
Debra Poche, Assistant Director
St. John the Baptist Recreation
Department**

Errol Manual and Debra Poche of St. John the Baptist Recreation Department partnered with Louisiana Spirit and Oglethorpe College to hold a soccer camp for displaced children living in Amp Circle Transitional Living Community in Edgard, LA.

They recognized the need for recreation for the children after visiting the community. They were hugely responsible for the success of the Soccer Camp at Amp Circle because of their selfless efforts and willingness to help in any way possible.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

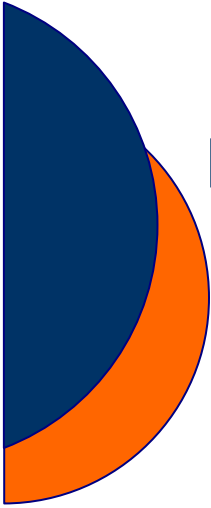


**Lisa Easterling, Pastor
First Union Presbyterian Church
Luling, LA**

When Rev. Easterling arrived at First Union Presbyterian two and a half months before Katrina, the congregation told her that they wanted to focus more attention on helping others. After Katrina, many of the church's members that did not suffer any damage wanted to help those in need.

The church governing body decided to house disaster recovery workers in their Fellowship Hall. It was then discovered that the first group of 75 workers from Austin College were more than the Hall could hold and they needed another plan.

After sharing their dilemma with the president of Presbytery of South Louisiana in Baton Rouge, help was on the way. They received funding from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. They proposed the idea of a tent village to their local councilmen and the parish president. They received overwhelming support for this project. This small church congregation, which lost about 15% of its congregation after Katrina, provided all of the labor for setting up the tent village named the FISH (First in Service and Hope) Camp. The camp has a kitchen, showers, laundry room, and a large tent for eating and socializing. It is being improved with ongoing construction of a real kitchen.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

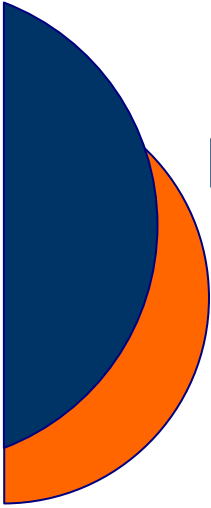


Susan Wade
Assistant Coordinator
FISH Camp
Luling, LA

Susan is a member of the First Union Presbyterian Church in Luling. Since becoming Assistant Coordinator for the FISH Camp, she has done extensive work to meet the needs of the survivors.

While understanding that recovery is more than rebuilding a home, she spends time addressing social and emotional needs. She has done extensive work in connecting with agencies to provide assistance to the survivors. One particular survivor was in severe need of medical attention because of her diabetes. The survivor had not seen a doctor in about a year, and had not been monitoring her sugar level. Susan bought the survivor a monitor and found resources to help the survivor get medical treatment and prescription medicine. Susan also made follow-up calls to check on the survivor's health.

Because of her dedication and volunteer services, she has been rewarded with a new job with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program in New Orleans.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

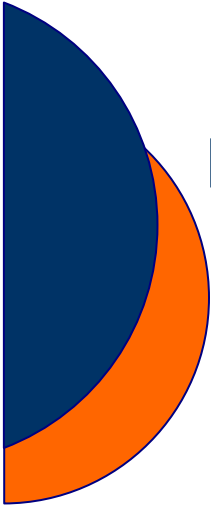


Jon Akin, Director Oglethorpe University Soccer

In February of 2007, Oglethorpe University soccer coach Jon Akin brought five of his players and two Atlanta-area coaches to St. John the Baptist Parish to work with Louisiana Spirit Hurricane Recovery Program River Parishes Team in hosting a youth soccer camp.

“We wanted to teach these kids that the skills they learn on the soccer field will help them to succeed both during a game and in life. If they practice everyday, work hard and stay determined they can succeed on and off the field,” said Coach Akin. The coaches and players brought a very positive spirit to the area.

They also bought 100 balls, donated by Atlanta businesses, for the displaced children living in the Transitional Trailer Community in Edgard.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

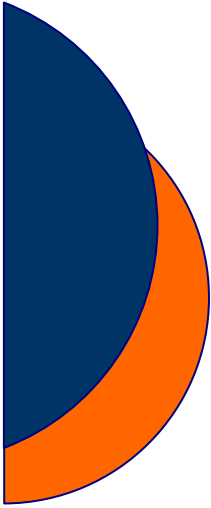


Lt. Michael Hoover
St. John the Baptist Sheriff's Office

Lt. Michael Hoover of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Department is a veteran First Responder, who has broad and extensive experience in Disaster Response and Recovery Operations. A true professional, Michael is a specialist in Critical Incident Stress Management. He served in this capacity with governmental agencies, police and fire departments throughout Louisiana and the United States.

During the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Michael was on the frontlines, selflessly providing services to First Responders units in critical situations. His work is also featured in Louisiana Spirit's First Responders video, "Brothers Keeper."

Michael is a true humanitarian believing in a life of service. His dedication to duty and serving First Responders makes him a valuable asset to the community.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

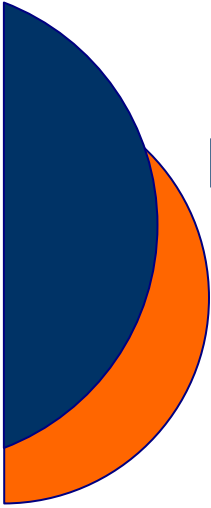


Frank W. Kidd

Frank W. Kidd efforts included organizing church volunteer program for the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center and East Park Recreation Center. He also cooked food for survivors at the Civic Center.

Frank provided free transportation for survivors to banks and religious services, distributed clothes and other items to displaced citizens at the shelters in Terrebonne Parish. His main focus was the program at the Plymouth Rock Baptist Church in Houma where Second Harvest Food Bank of New Orleans distributed free food every day for 8 months.

At the present time, the church continues to distribute free food on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.



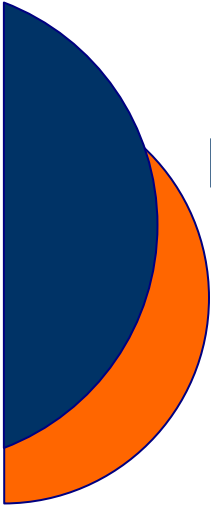
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Chris Brunet
Food Drive Coordinator

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Chris organized a food drive with non-perishable items and cleaning supplies that were donated from organizations nationwide. With the help of volunteers, Chris was successful in helping his community in a way that they will never forget.

Currently, Chris is raising his 3-year-old niece and 4-year-old nephew after the death of their parents.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

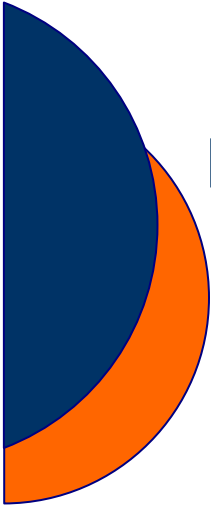


Bessie Lewis
Retired Nurse

“Due to a back injury, I had not worked for about two years when Katrina struck,” says retired nurse Bessie Lewis. “I was a nurse for 44 years, including 28 years with the Terrebonne General Medical Center in Houma. I am also a breast cancer survivor of nearly 22 years.”

“After Katrina, our Senior Board’s Mission at Plymouth Rock Baptist Church in Houma was to volunteer at East Park and Civic Center shelters. I did everything from serving meals to feeding and holding babies, just to give their parents a small break. At my church, I volunteered at the Special Recovery Food and Clothing Bank Distribution Center.”

“Each of us can do something no matter how great or small to give back to the community. Not just in time of crisis, but in our daily living.”



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



**Ruama Camp
Executive Director
Grace Community Services**

Ruama Camp, Executive Director of Grace Community Services, plays a vital role in the Recovery Efforts in St. Charles, St. John and St. James Parishes. Ruama motivates and directs her staff to assist and guide hurricane survivors. Under Ruama's direction, the Grace counselors are active in every Transitional Living Site in the Tri-parish area.

Grace's Home Reconstruction and Outreach teams have assisted storm victims with renovation of damaged properties, short-term rental assistance and Case Management Services. She works closely and has partnered with Louisiana Spirit to resolve numerous cases. In addition, Ms. Camp has worked diligently with children and the elderly helping to mobilize community resources to establish and direct summer camps for children and to assist displaced families with necessary material needs such as food, clothing and shelter.

Ruama's sincerity, dedication to task, and focus on solving the problems of storm victims is an inspiration to all.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

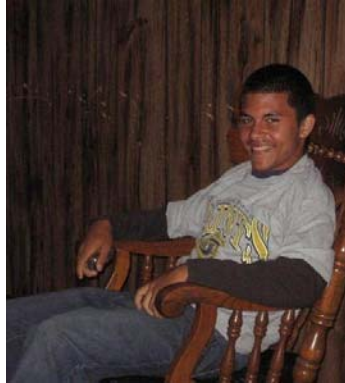


**Lester Rainey, Councilman
District 1
St. John the Baptist Parish**

Councilman Rainey was instrumental in arranging the Stress Free Soccer Camp. Councilman Rainey embraced the idea from the very beginning, making the necessary contacts, arranging transportation, setting up food services and lodging for the coaches, soccer team members and students along with moral support.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



**Corey Dion, Volunteer
Camp NOAH**

“Camp NOAH was a great experience for me. It was really one of the first times that I had done volunteering on that level. It was a great because I got to work with children of all ages. We got to help a whole community that was in need of our help. I could tell that they really enjoyed me being there and that made me feel awesome.

I've never felt so good knowing that people who really needed my help appreciated that I was there help them.

While there, I met a bunch of new friends. This is one experience that I will never forget. It was just a great feeling to know that I helped a community in need.”



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Richard C. Thomas
Artist and Survivor

Richard Thomas, an artist from New Orleans said, “I have many encountered people in my journey who were loving and caring since the storm.” After arriving at Larose Civic Center, a woman approached Richard and asked, “Are you from New Orleans? Could I wash your clothes?” From there, he and his family were taken in for 8 weeks by a Larose family. Richard says he remembers waking up the next morning in a fog, being offered Boudin and Jambalaya and thinking he was in Cajun Heaven.

Richard hasn’t skipped a beat since the storm. C. Ray Nagin, Mayor of New Orleans asked him to design a Katrina Remembrance poster, and the Jazz and Heritage Festival organizers asked him to do a Congo Square poster. While in Larose, Richard painted a mural at Community Bible Church.

Currently, he’s working on his third Voice of the Wetlands poster and has completed a mural for the City of Waterloo, Iowa.

Reflecting on his loss, he no longer owns four cars, a home, art and art studio, but he is thankful for everything he has, including his spirituality. Richard shares time between New Orleans, and the city of Waterloo where he is developing a New Orleans style restaurant that combines fine dining with fine art and a dry goods store. Thomas is also restoring his home and art gallery.



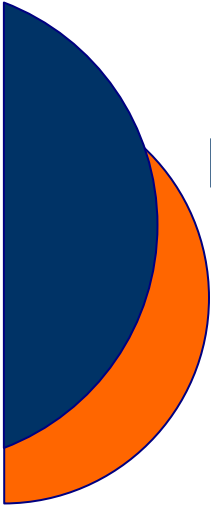
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Rev. John Boss
First Baptist Church
Grand Isle

As Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Grand Isle, Rev. Boss serves the seven mile island on the Gulf Coast. He was pastor of the church for only four months before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the island community.

Rev. Boss led the recovery, repair and restoration of Grand Island with 40 churches and 700 volunteer workers and ministers.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

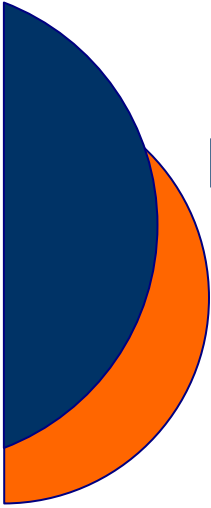


Brenda Dardar Robichaux
Principal Chief
United Houma Nation

As United Houma Nation Tribal Principal Chief, Brenda met with representatives of the National Congress of American Indians in preparation to survey tribal communities on September 13, 2005.

Of the 15,000 Houma tribal members, at least 3,400 were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Brenda said the Houma tribe have long been labeled by others as the “hidden nation” and the “forgotten people.” The tribe has established a fund to help its members.

Brenda used her front lawn as a camp site for months following Hurricane Katrina as volunteers from around the United States came to help with volunteer efforts.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Pastor Steve O. Allen, Sr.
New Home Ministries
LaPlace

After Katrina passed and people began to settle into their new living arrangements in the River Parishes, Pastor Allen spearheaded the donation of clothing, food and gifts for Christmas. Hundreds of gifts poured in from residents and businesses in the area.

Pastor Allen coordinated the distribution of gifts with Louisiana Spirit outreach workers. Also, the New Home Ministries gave St. John the Baptist Head Start in Garyville Christmas gifts.



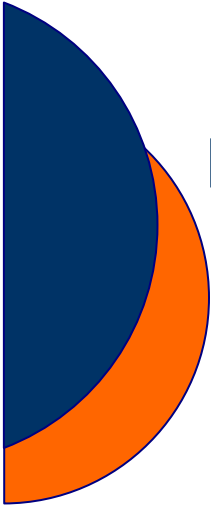
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Eliza Eugene, Realtor
Prudential Gardner Real Estate

Eliza, a well-know realtor in the St. Charles area, formed a non profit foundation which worked with the New Orleans Saints football team to help survivors in St. Charles Parish.

They provided food, clothing, recreation, shelter and Christmas gifts.



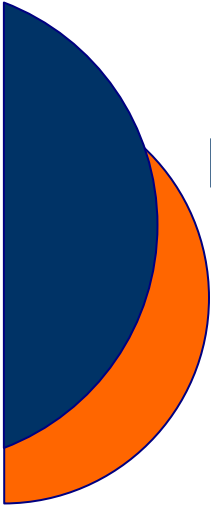
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Carl and Rose Brady
St. John Ministry of Care
LaPlace

The St. John Ministry of Care is an ecumenical alliance of churches and service organization. In usual circumstances, they provide help to people who have experienced a reversal of fortune resulting from theft, loss of employment, accidents or illness. The first week after Katrina, Carl and Rose, along with Sharon Hilt spearheaded the Ministry's relief efforts.

They began providing clothing, paying utility bills and providing food assistance for storm survivors. Initially, they were stunned by the sheer numbers of people that arrived at their doors looking for services. Nevertheless, they responded as best as they could to all requests for help. Louisiana Spirit outreach workers continue to remain in close contact with Carl, Rose and Sharon as they continue to provide assistance to storm survivors.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

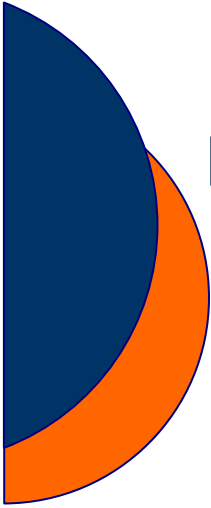


Terrell Turner, Survivor

Terrell reflected on her experiences after Katrina by saying, "If someone would have told me that when I depart Houma, I'd be gone a month, spend a week trapped in a hospital, fly on an Air Force plane, and then live in a shelter, I would have told that person they were not in their right mind. But, that's exactly what happened."

While at Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center, she assisted with providing school clothes and became a listening ear for those wanting to tell their stories. She also helped to distribute prom dresses and accessories.

"Katrina has taught me a valuable lesson. Lots of artifacts, jewelry, houses, gold and even Bibles were washed away, but as long as the Word of God is embedded in your spirit, nothing will cause it to fade away or be washed away. If it is in your heart, you can recall it at will.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

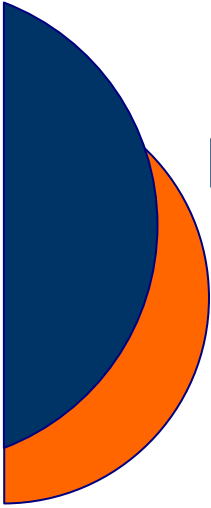


Bernadette Thibodaux
Substance Abuse Counselor

An employee of Department of Health and Hospitals' Office of Addictive Disorders and member of the Prevention Partnership, Bernadette did social work at the Nicholls State University shelter after Hurricane Katrina.

She says tears still come to her eyes as she remembers a woman in her late 40-50's who was separated from her mother during the storm. Bernadette spent lots of time helping the woman to find her mother, going through the different search lists.

One moment that sticks out in Bernadette's mind is when she told the survivor that she had found her mother in Arkansas and that she was alive. Bernadette also housed St. Bernard Parish family members for three months after the storm.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

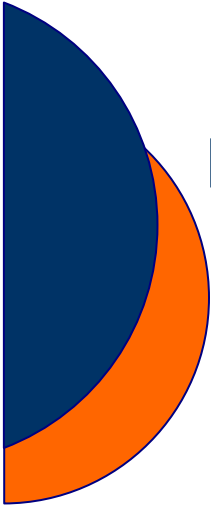


**Gayle Duet, President
Prevention Partnership
and Consumer Advocate
Lady of the Sea General Hospital
Cut Off**

Gayle Duet and Lady of the Sea General Hospital played a role in helping to meet prescription assistance needs of survivors. They partnered with Birdsall Pharmacy, Clinic Drug Store and Pitre's Pharmacy to provide medicine at no cost. Community Bible Church (CBC) partnered with Lady of the Sea to help meet medical and relocation needs of 31 evacuees who were displaced by Katrina.

Lady of the Sea General Hospital employees conducted a clothing drive that assisted evacuees and other employees who had lost all their personal belongings. Special assistance was also received by their sister hospital, Adirondack Medical Center, in up-state New York. Thousands of dollars were raised through a Rummage Sale with the funds being divided equally among employees with the greatest need.

CBC raised over \$180,000 to help survivors and eventually partnered with Grace Community Church from New Hampshire to raise money for survivors. They helped to build two homes which have been transported to South Lafourche to families who lost their homes. *"There's No Place Like Home"* has become a national organization whose goal is to help replace what many have lost during a disaster. A Task Force has been formed to replicate this program in Lafourche Parish, not only to assist in meeting disaster needs, but to also affect the quality of life in our Vocational Technical school and at risk youth who can be trained to build a home and learn a skill for gainful employment.



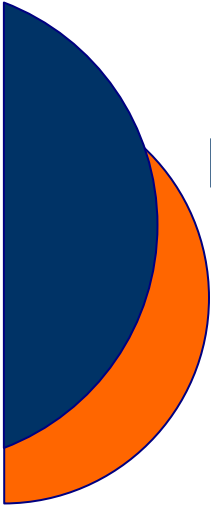
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Michele Starks
Habitat for Humanity
Thibodaux

Michele Starks, Family Support Director for Habitat for Humanity in Thibodaux continues her ongoing work with families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita through her efforts everyday to help families to get new homes.

She assists all of Habitat's regular capacity Partner Families.



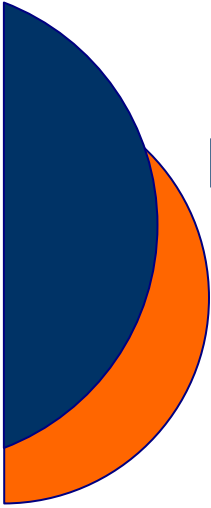
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Barbara Else, MPA, MT-BC, LCAT

Barbara is a music therapist from Tucson, Arizona. Through her private practice, she lends a hand to the American Red Cross and the American Music Association. In Louisiana, she acquired resources to help music therapists receive CEU's for their work on the Louisiana Gulf Coast.

When Barbara heard that local music therapists were using plastic trash cans and buckets as music instruments, she connected with the American Music Association – Mid Atlantic Region and initiated a fundraiser that helped to raise \$650 to purchase music instruments.



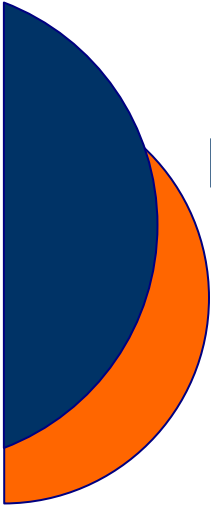
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Christine Stevens, MSW, MA, MT-BC

As a music therapist in California, Christine visited New Orleans twice after the storm. On her first visit she volunteered at different sites in New Orleans. On her second visit, she volunteered at a St. Bernard transitional living site. She conducted evening drum circles, workshops in psychiatric facilities and provided coaching and verbal encouragement to local music therapists. She paid her own way to get to New Orleans because she felt the need to be there to help.

With over 15 years clinical expertise, she is an acclaimed author, speaker and pioneer in the drumming and wellness movement. Her company, UpBeat Drum Circles, has lead seminars in the U.S., Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan and England.



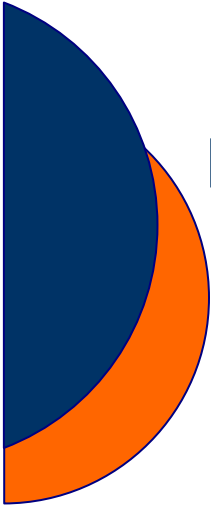
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



**Rev. Johnny Johnson, Pastor
New Belmont Baptist Church**

Rev. Johnson has made sure that his congregation help in the community as much as they can. The New Belmont Baptist Church Youth Ambassadors have become a staple in the lives of residents at FEMA transitional living sites in the River Parish area. The Youth Ambassadors have been going door to door inviting people to worship, playing with the children in the communities and even get some of the residents to join their congregation and begin to help them.

Rev. Johnson's wife, Kennitra, a Homeless Education Coordinator in the Assumption Parish School System, has registered children for school, provided uniforms and supplies.



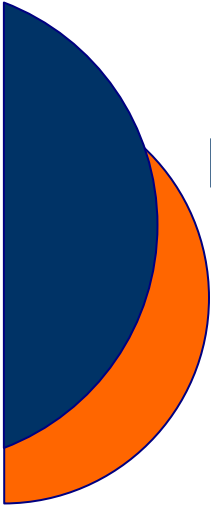
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Rev. Neil Bernard New Wine Christian Fellowship

Rev. Neil Bernard of the New Wine Christian Fellowship Church has been at the forefront of the recovery efforts in the River Parishes since the very beginning. Rev. Bernard helped start recovery efforts when he opened the doors to his church on September 1, 2005 to several hundred hurricane survivors. He opened the only shelter in the River Parishes at the time, and provided storm survivors with employment, food, clothing, shelter and spiritual inspiration until November 15, 2005.

Rev. Bernard led the way providing an example of selfless service and undaunted compassion toward his fellow man. He continues to make himself available to storm victims and is considered to be an invaluable human resource in the tri-parish area.



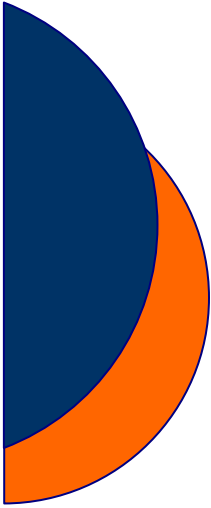
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



River Parish Mental Health Advisory Board, Inc.

In October 2005, all medications at the River Parish Mental Health Center were thrown out, leaving the Center in a dire situation. The St. Charles United Way and Capital Area United Way helped by giving River Parish a grant for \$83,500 which allowed pharmaceutical refills for mental health consumers. A recreational vehicle was set up at the area Wal-Mart where medical doctors from Maryland distributed medications in cooperation with the American Red Cross and Louisiana Spirit.

Dr. Ben Yorkoff of Baltimore, Maryland was instrumental in the organization, implementation and distribution of medications. Volunteers from the area helped to feed the doctors who distributed medications.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Rev. Kirkland Aitken

“During a time of great need in the bayou area, I was grateful to be able to provide shelter, food, clothing, money and transportation to people who really needed that support,” says Rev. Kirkland Aitken.

The people in the community especially appreciated the transportation from the remote area where we live, to places they needed to go like physician's offices, grocery stores and church services.



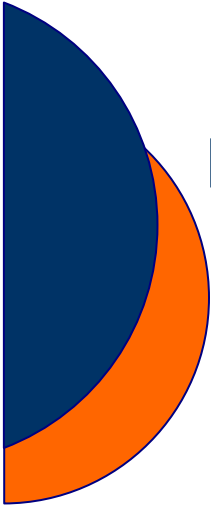
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Rev. Willie Bonvillian, III
Howard Baptist Church

Best described by many as a person who always answers the call of those in need, Rev. Willie Bonvillian III of the Howard Baptist Church was there to open the doors of his church to evacuees from the storm.

He and his congregation prepared food and handed out clothes for those who came to the church in the immediate aftermath of Katrina and Rita.



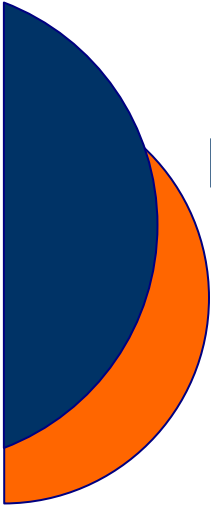
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



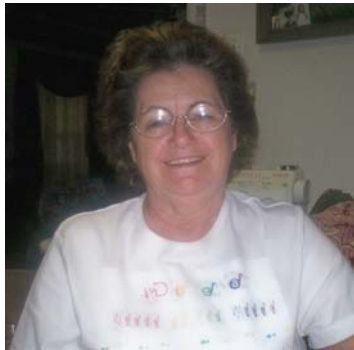
**Albert P. Naquin, Chief
Isle de Jean Charles Band
of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw
Indians**

Albert says, “My home was used as a distribution center for the Island and the Pointe-Aux-Chene tribe using two barns to store the supplies. The Island and Point-Aux-Chene tribe received four 18-wheeler loads of supplies (toys, food and personal hygiene products) and materials for home use (tools, blankets, etc).

The Seminole Tribe of Florida sent a thirty-foot trailer loaded with clothes. Chief Dodge of the Cherokee Nation brought a 26-foot U-Haul truck loaded with tools, stoves, heaters, food and blankets. Also, Conscience Alliances gave the two tribes turkeys for each family for Thanksgiving and Christmas. I can still remember the delivery of Thanksgiving turkeys like it was yesterday. It was one of the best feelings I’ve ever had.”



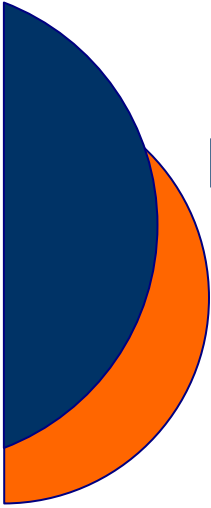
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



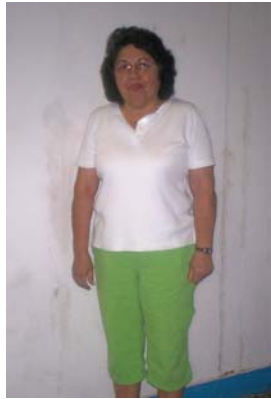
**Dita DeHart, Chair
Camp NOAH**

As chair of Camp NOAH, Dita DeHart had the dedication and determination needed to make this camp a huge success. Teen helpers volunteered their time for an entire week to coach children and to handle food preparation and clean-up duties.

With Dita's leadership, the camp ran smoothly. Dita says that her volunteers grew very fond of working with the children and really gave their very best. Two of her teen volunteers went to Minnesota for Thanksgiving to share more of their Cajun hospitality with others.



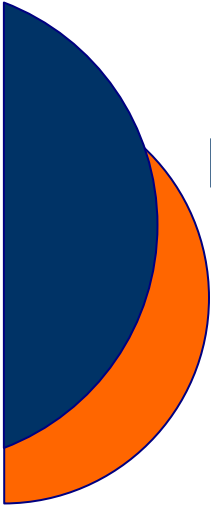
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



**Doris Billiot
and
Zoeanna Verrett**

After Hurricane Rita, there was a great need for food and other supplies down the bayou. Doris Billiot and Zoeanna Verrett volunteered their time and helped with the organization and distribution of non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies and clothes which were donated from many different states.

Even though Doris Billiot's house had three feet of water, she still took the time to volunteer to help others.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes

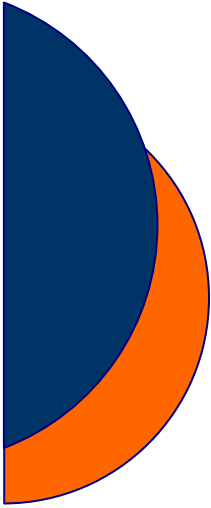


Lisa Spiegel, LPC

A Licensed Professional Counselor at SOHO Parenting in New York City, Lisa came to Louisiana to help volunteer with the Bayou Area Habitat for Humanity to help build homes for hurricane-affected families. While volunteering she met several families and observed the need for ongoing Mental Health Assistance for families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Through SOHO Parenting, they donated money to provide therapeutic recreational services in the Habitat for Humanity Bayou Area Bon Jovi Community.

Lisa left and returned in November 2006 and provided free short term counseling to families with children.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



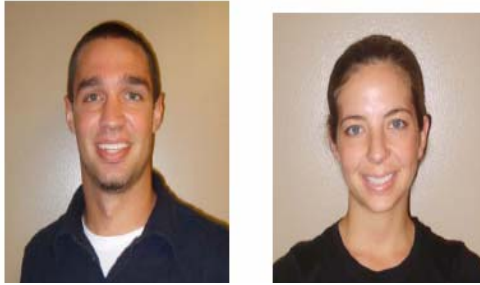
Greg Harding, Cultural Liaison

Greg is a cultural liaison in Terrebonne Parish and a member of the School Board. He is always in contact with community leaders to help address the needs of the citizens.

At the Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing (BISCO) meeting in Terrebonne Parish, Greg and his team cooked for the 150 people.



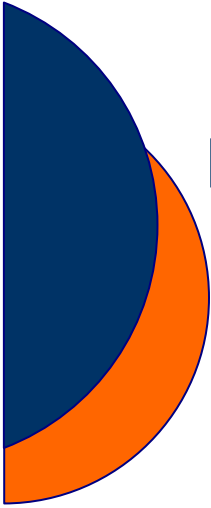
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Shay and Mandy Holloway

Shay and Mandy Holloway were instrumental in helping with the Katrina relief efforts in Thibodaux. They helped provide residents with food, a place to take a bath, getting settled into shelters or helping to locate relatives.

Mandy also helped transport survivors to take care of various needs.

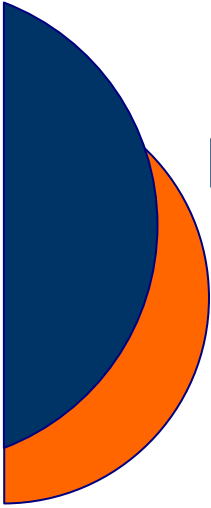


Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Becky Hebert

In the rush to aid hurricane survivors, Becky Hebert of Labadieville stepped up and delivered. She came to House of Prayer church in Thibodaux every day for two weeks and washed, dried, and folded over 200 loads of clothes. Everyone was appreciative of her work.



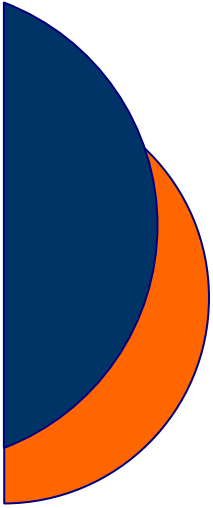
Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



**Ronnie Melancon, Pastor
House of Prayer**

Pastor Ronnie Melancon of the House of Prayer in Thibodaux was instrumental in coordinating American Red Cross efforts at Nicholls State University. He utilized church facilities to store food, clothing, and first aid supplies.

He also allowed use of church vans and coordinated drivers to send supplies to the hardest hit areas as far as 175 miles away.

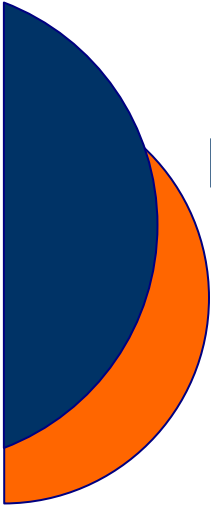


Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



**Sandy Holloway, Principal
St. Charles Elementary School**

Sandy Holloway, Principal of St. Charles Elementary School in Thibodaux helped organize all of the medical inventory stored at Nicholls State. She also used her resources and connections with individuals within the Lafourche Parish School System to help 120 children enroll in school.



Louisiana's Unsung Heroes



Walt Philpot, Thibodaux

Walt Philpot of Thibodaux helped to drive survivors to various locations in the Thibodaux area.

Walt says he felt a desire to help those in need as best as he could. He was always available to drive people to grocery stores, hospitals, government agencies, churches and doctor's appointments.