

Catholic Charities

DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN

Brian R. Corbin, Local Disaster Response Coordinator.....(330) 744-8451 ext. 320
Executive Director of Catholic Charities Services
144 West Wood Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503—charities@youngstowndiocese.org

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Youngstown reports that as of December 2006 over \$480,955 has been collected locally for recovery efforts in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Donations (both *Hurricane Disaster Relief* and/or *New Orleans Build a House*) are being accepted and may be sent to:

Catholic Charities Disaster Funds
144 West Wood Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503

please make your check payable to:
Catholic Charities Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund, or
Catholic Charities New Orleans Build a House Fund

HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE—HISTORY

Many tens of thousands New Orleans residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina and Rita in 2005 are still homeless. Large numbers of neighborhoods stood submerged under four to twelve feet of water for several weeks in the storms' aftermath. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans is working hard to restore their homes through a program known as Operation Helping Hands. This operation asks volunteers from across the nation to travel to New Orleans to help residents whose health, age, and finances prevent them from repairing the damage themselves.

To date the Youngstown Diocese, acting through volunteers from 23 parishes, from Walsh University Community, as well as from some other local churches have sent 17 teams of volunteers totaling over 4,888 volunteer hours of service (not counting travel time) to Operation Helping Hands and to the New Orleans Jesuit Outreach Ministries.

Until now our volunteers have participated in assessment and the

gutting of over a thousand moldy, storm-ravaged houses. Currently there are 900 houses that are repairable and sit unused as the homeowners await materials and skilled re-builders.



Many of the displaced reside in far-away cities and in cramped camping trailers that were provided by FEMA. Depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder have been widely observed among many of the New Orleans Catholic Charities clients. They pray daily in gratitude for the help they already received, however are still trapped in a seemingly insurmountable goal of getting their families together in their homes.

OPERATION HELPING HANDS

Take Action Daily

- Pray for the displaced homeowners, for volunteers to respond, and for donors of funds for travel and building materials
- Work locally by meeting with planning teams coordinated through Fr. Edward Brienz, New Orleans Disaster Liaison, (330) 205-8632, erbrienz@yahoo.com.
- Consider sharing your God-given talent for this project.
- Encourage someone with these skills to step forward and join the effort.
- Make a donation in Youngstown to: “New Orleans Build A House” Fund.

HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE—PRESENT

Volunteers from across the Youngstown Diocese who have rebuilding skills are needed immediately to travel to New Orleans and volunteer for at least 5 days at a time. Catholic Charities has committed to providing these skilled volunteers to rebuild at least two families’ houses before Labor Day of this year.



A gutted home ready to be re-built.

The trades in demand are:

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| ✓ Rough Carpenters | ✓ Roofers |
| ✓ Finish Carpenters | ✓ Floor Covering Installers (<i>mostly vinyl, some carpet</i>) |
| ✓ Dry-wall Installers | ✓ Helpers for the above skilled trades |
| ✓ Electricians | |
| ✓ Plumbers | |

For more information please contact:

Father Edward Brienz, our New Orleans Disaster Liaison, at: 330-205-8632 erbrienz@yahoo.com,
or Rick Walker, Catholic Charities Services at: 330-744-8451 rwalker@youngstowndiocese.org

VISIT OUR Website: www.catholiccharitiesyoungstown.org