

The Salvation Army

Emergency Disaster Services



Hurricane Katrina



NOAA satellite image taken 8-28-05 when Katrina was a Category 5 storm

Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast August 29 as a Category 4 storm, destroying entire communities in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The scope of the devastation is unprecedented; hundreds of thousands lost their homes, their jobs and most of their possessions. As thousands fled east, some stopped in Beaumont. At The Salvation Army, more than 100 evacuees found shelter, food, medical care, and practical material help to start a new life.

With support from volunteers and donors, The Salvation Army was able to provide immediate assistance and shelter to many of those left homeless by Katrina. We will continue to help through the months ahead as our neighbors return to rebuild their homes or stay to start over in our community.

No matter how well a family or community may prepare for a natural disaster, there is no way to predict exactly when a disaster may happen, or how it will affect individual families.

Though meteorologists can give advance warning about some aspects of an incoming storm, there is no way to know precisely which areas will be most affected.

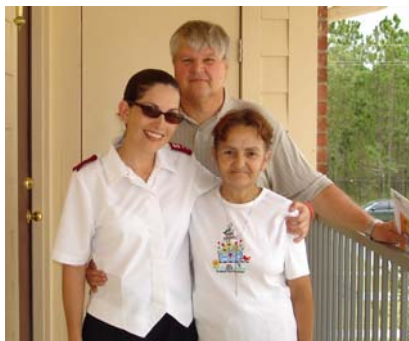
In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, entire regions were devastated. Many communities were completely wiped away. Residents of coastal communities have weathered numerous storms, but for thousands of Katrina evacuees, there is nothing to return to this time.

Southeast Texas suddenly became a new home to many of these people. Many Louisiana residents fled east, stopping where welcome shelter signs offered a place to rest.

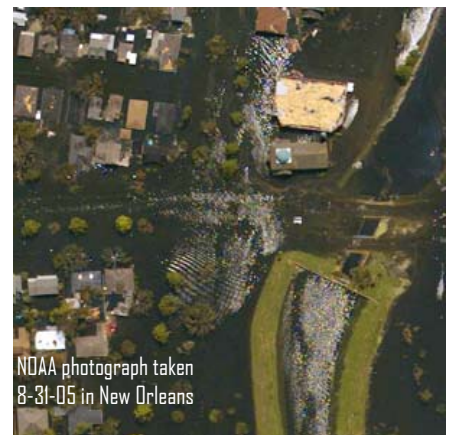
A group of 107 people came by bus to The Salvation Army in Beaumont, where they found shelter, hot food, clothes, and a place to begin their recovery. Some had been separated from family in the chaos of the evacuation and needed help to reconnect.

A phone bank and computer room pro-

(Continued on page 2)



Capt. Alba Ford welcomes an evacuee family to their new home, one of five fully-furnished apartments donated to The Salvation Army.



NOAA photograph taken 8-31-05 in New Orleans

An aerial photograph shows the damage to homes near a levee in New Orleans.

DOING THE MOST GOODSM

With your contributions of money, time & resources

(Continued from page 1)

vided access to Internet search sites and hotlines. Staff and volunteers passed messages between evacuees and relatives calling to find them.

Staff also helped to coordinate travel arrangements when family were located out of the area or out of the state.

Community groups and local businesses donated food, clothing, new socks and underwear, money and time to help those seeking shelter here after the storm. The Salvation Army received calls offering houses and apartments, cars, appliances, furniture, and other major items.

We received a large warehouse to use as a distribution center for food, hygiene items, cleaning supplies and housewares. We acquired a small commercial space to use as a clothing store, on a voucher system.

Doctors, nurses, dentists and other medical workers volunteered their services. The Salvation Army received donations of medical supplies for evacuees who had to leave home without a wheelchair or a breathing aid.

Pastors, counselors and stress management workers came to the shelter to visit with residents and hear their concerns and to help them face the uncertainties ahead.

Many businesses and individual employers posted job openings and sought out Katrina evacuees to offer work. Some planned to settle in Beaumont and build a new life here.

Through cooperation with many groups, organizations, businesses and individuals, The Salvation Army was able to offer hope and a significant amount of practical help to our Gulf Coast neighbors displaced by Katrina.

Katrina by the Numbers:

(representing The Salvation Army's activities throughout the Southern Territory)

Meals (not including sandwiches) - 2,857,967

Housing in Salvation Army facilities—88,656

Value of vouchers for clothes, food, housing, etc.—\$2,966,938

Spiritual care (prayer) - 194,938

THE SALVATION ARMY

Beaumont Corps

Captains Dan and Alba Ford

Commanding Officers

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DOING THE MOST GOOD™

Congressman Ted Poe visits Beaumont shelter

The Beaumont Corps demonstrated for our Congressional representative how The Salvation Army responds when our neighbors face disaster.

On Friday, September 9, Congressman Ted Poe visited The Salvation Army's emergency shelter in Beaumont. His impressions were very positive.

"You all are doing a wonderful job here," he told Capt. Dan and Alba Ford.

Poe promised to bring word back to Washington regarding the effectiveness of faith-based organizations, particularly The Salvation Army, in responding to this disaster.



Disaster Assistance Center

1490 N. 7th Street

Now Open!

The Salvation Army received a 70,000 sq.ft. warehouse for disaster relief.

It is stocked with donated food, hygiene items, furniture, bedding and housewares to help families displaced by the storm set up new households. The Disaster Assistance Center will be the hub for our relief efforts over the next few months. Families needing assistance, from either Hurricane, can come to the warehouse and, after speaking with social service workers, receive aid to get back on their feet.

We're also beginning Christmas assistance.