

PROJECT
RESTORE
FERRY
PLACE

Fourteen new homes,
fourteen families realizing a dream,

One neighborhood transformed
by partners near and far.

PROJECT RESTORE FERRY PLACE

Our mission is to revitalize a forgotten and broken New Orleans neighborhood by working with New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity (NOAHH), partner churches, volunteers, and families to build fourteen new homes along the block of Ferry Place.



Dear RHINO partners:

After many months of planning, we are pleased and excited to announce "Project Restore Ferry Place," the next phase of our Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO) program at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church. As you have already demonstrated your commitment to the recovery of New Orleans, we are hoping you will want to know about this new endeavor.

Project Restore Ferry Place is not about gutting - with your help that work is nearing an end- but building. It is the culmination of a dream conceived shortly after Katrina. Working in partnership with New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity, our plans call for the construction of 14 new homes on "Ferry Place" providing much needed housing for families desiring to return to their city.

As housing is desperately needed by many of our citizens, we are convinced that programs like Project Restore Ferry Place are vital toward the city's recovery, and we are grateful for this opportunity to participate in this building of hope and homes in an area so close to our church.

And so, we say, "there is a place for you on Ferry Place!" We would like to extend an invitation to your congregation to join us in this historic venture and would ask your prayerful consideration to lending your support.



Donald R. Frampton
Senior Pastor



Wall Raising Ceremony for the first NOAHH home sponsored by RHINO, January 2007

The Need

Following the hurricane, thousands of low-income New Orleanians lost everything, including their housing.

Though Ferry Place didn't flood as a result of Hurricane Katrina, this block includes blighted property, burned buildings, and empty, overgrown lots. This area has been devoid of city services for many years.



The reality is that the housing crisis is not a new development in New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina wrought havoc on New Orleans' already substandard housing stock. Pre-Katrina, New Orleans contended with one of the highest poverty rates and one of the lowest homeownership rates in the nation. Rather than debate where the housing crisis starts or who is to blame, we know at least one proven way to break it. A Habitat home is a hand up out of poverty housing. RHINO and NOAHH know the difference home ownership makes. We have seen the results as we have worked together.

Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO) is an outreach ministry of Saint Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church organized in response to the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

RHINO's mission is to organize, host, and lead volunteers from the local community and around the country in rebuilding of New Orleans and through these activities serve as a witness to our faith and the love of God.

Almost as soon as the storm had passed, the leadership of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian recognized that an immediate need of homeowners would be assistance in gutting their homes. To date, RHINO has hosted over 1,400 volunteers from 30 states; these volunteers have cleared out and gutted 200 homes and built one new home. Nearly 700 more volunteers are already scheduled to work with RHINO through the end of 2007.

As RHINO took shape, we were already looking beyond the clean up phase to the rebuilding of homes. St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church has partnered with New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity several times over the years, and this is a partnership that has only deepened since Katrina. Throughout the RHINO program, volunteers worked with the New Orleans Area chapter of Habitat for Humanity (NOAHH) to build the first homes in NOAHH's Musician's Village and to build one new home in the Hollygrove neighborhood.

Our Response

RHINO is beginning a new phase of rebuilding hope by starting a new, exciting partnership with NOAHH. The vision, that started even before 2005 ended, is to completely renew the block-long street Ferry Place by partnering with Habitat for Humanity to build 14 new homes on that street. This will form the nucleus for a rebuilt neighborhood and stand as a sign of hope for generations to come. RHINO will provide volunteer labor and financial support, and Habitat will provide the planning and work leadership.

RHINO staff has been telling volunteers for the past 16 months: this is bigger than the work that you'll have finished at the end of your day and week; your presence here gives new hope and strengthens hope where it is already growing. Just as important as the building of houses through the Project Restore Ferry Place will be the building of relationships, understanding, respect, and shared values as people from across the nation and every walk and situation of life work side by side and support this project.

NOAHH has acquired seven lots on Ferry Place and is in the process of obtaining an additional seven. The first seven will be built almost simultaneously during the next 3-4 months, and the subsequent seven will be built over a longer period of time, as the lots become available. Partner families for the Project Restore Ferry Place homes will be chosen by NOAHH's regular application process. The main criteria include that the family must have: a need for shelter, a willingness to partner, a job history in the area, and the ability to pay the interest-free loan back over 20 years. *For more details on Habitat for Humanity's Application Process, contact the RHINO Project Coordinator.



How to Partner

The budget for each home on Ferry Place is \$75,000. This figure includes land costs, all materials, permits, and subcontractors. This figure does not reflect any markups and does not include any fund-raising or administrative costs of either RHINO or NOAHH. This is also the price for which the home is sold to a partner family.

The RHINO program of St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church has committed \$25,000 for each house, for a total of \$350,000, towards this exciting project. Our challenge is to raise an additional \$700,000-\$50,000 for each of the fourteen homes. We ask you, your congregation, and friends to donate funds to Project Restore Ferry Place.

There are many ways to give: a one-time contribution, a two-year pledge; we challenge you to be creative in involving those around you. Make a plan that suits your budget. Your gift, of any size, can make a tangible difference! RHINO pledges to keep all participating communities updated on the progress of Project Restore Ferry Place with pictures and stories.

Members of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church and RHINO staff will contact you in 3-4 weeks to confirm that you've received this packet and to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you for the many ways that you've already contributed to the rebuilding of this city. We look forward to working with you to make Project Restore Ferry Place a reality!

RECOVERY not Relief

Project Restore Ferry Place is disaster recovery, rather than disaster relief.

The distinction we make is this - disaster relief deals with immediate needs: clothing, food, water, and shelter, while disaster recovery involves the long term rebuilding of broken lives and communities. RHINO and NOAHH's vision is shaped by our shared belief that hurricanes, floods and tornadoes are not the only forms of disaster. Project Restore Ferry Place will provide housing that will be a part of a development of generations of New Orleanians who are committed to building a healthy and safe city.

Below: Jeannette Trask (right) and family members at the Dedication Ceremony for her new home, the first RHINO/NOAHH home completed, March 2007



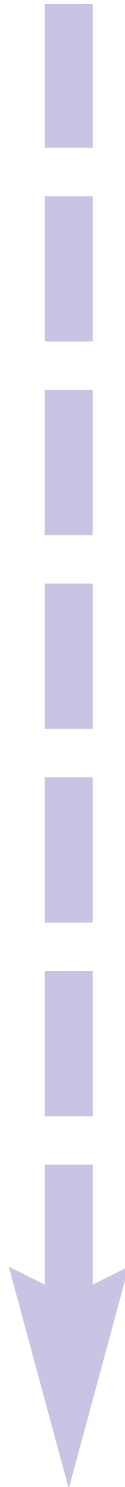
First I want to thank God for giving me this opportunity to tell you something about myself!

My name is Jeanette Trask. I'm a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. I have lived in the lower ninth ward all my life. I graduated from George Washington Sr. High School. I married and had four kids. Now my kids are adults and have their own families. I have four grandchildren who I spend time with. I belong to New Israel Baptist Church. I worked at a Dentist Office for 17 years before Hurricane Katrina. My hobby is walking. I have walked in the Crescent City Classic, Crescent City Connection, and the Breast Cancer walk and many more.

After Hurricane Katrina, the levees broke and the lower ninth ward went under water. I knew my life would change after I lost everything I had worked so hard for. This experience left me emotionally and physically exhausted. I had to regroup and remember what I said before I left for Katy, Texas on August 27, 2005, "Let God's will be done." And it was done. After facing the reality of knowing I had lost everything I knew I had to start all over again. My job was not coming back and I had no place to live. I would like to give a special thanks to my granddaughter, daughter, and son in law for giving me a helping hand

in the time of need when they were also in need. I told myself God had something better in store for me. I came back to New Orleans on November 1, 2005. I found a part time job. I applied for Habitat and was approved. I went from nothing to getting my own home. This is a gift from God. I will have a home of my own. Thank God I am back home and going to have a home of my own.

Jeannette



For questions and more information
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