



THANK YOU NEW YORK!

On August 28th, in a matter of hours, the City of Baton Rouge doubled in population. Then Hurricane Katrina unleashed her deadly force on August 29th and hundreds of thousands of lives were changed forever. The Baton Rouge Office of Community Development estimates that of those who fled to Baton Rouge, almost 140,000 will remain here permanently. 40-50% of these are low-income families, the very folks Habitat for Humanity is committed to serving.

2005 was an extraordinary and difficult year for all of us. As devastating as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were to south Louisiana, they have showed us something very important about the soul of Americans - that their compassion and kindness knows no boundaries. Amidst the ruin and destruction, we have seen love, kindness and caring. Nowhere is that more evident than in the generous people of New York City.

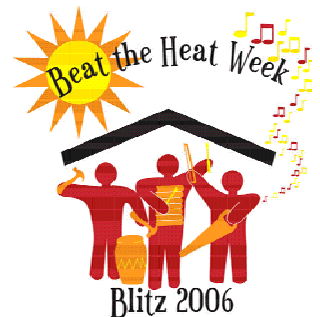
Once the emergency relief efforts were well underway, Habitat of Greater Baton Rouge responded quickly to the tremendous housing need in our area by building four homes the week after Thanksgiving—November 27-December 3. Volunteers from California to Florida and from Massachusetts to Michigan, skilled and unskilled, joined local volunteers and helped build houses and rebuild the lives of four qualified Habitat families.



This build was part of a comprehensive plan Habitat of Greater Baton Rouge developed in partnership with Habitat for Humanity International. The generous donation from Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City has made this effort possible as well as our future plans to build forty homes in 2006 and 50 in 2007.

10 HOUSES IN ONE WEEK FOR HURRICANE IMPACTED FAMILIES

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge will respond to the tremendous housing need in our community with the **"Beat the Heat Week, Blitz 2006!"** This summer, May 27-June 3, we are attempting what some may call impossible—to build 14 houses in one week—4 for local folks and 10 for hurricane impacted families! With continued efforts to rebuild the gulf coast come many opportunities to offer decent, affordable housing to our partners in need. With the very generous support of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, we will succeed in not just building houses, but building homes *and* communities.



It is time we rejoice in everything it means to be a Louisianan. Our spicy food, hot weather, and our all around fierce dedication to our homes here in the southeast not only make us who we are but put a fire in us to survive and overcome. This is why this summer's build will focus on the positive side of Louisiana and all that it has to offer. We should still remember the recent tragedies our friends and families have suffered. Let's honor them by dedicating this build to the *survivors* of Louisiana. With the incredible support from all across the nation including the people of New York City, we will be building 14 homes. So, here is a big thanks to New York and to everyone who will make this year's "Beat the Heat Week, Blitz 2006" a shining success!

Habitat for Humanity
Building Homes
Building Lives
Building Community#

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GREATER BATON ROUGE

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