

NEW *Dimensions*

October 2005

Special Edition!

EHDOC Action Brings Relief to Katrina and Rita Evacuees

EHDOC seniors went into helping mode after hearing of the hurricane that nearly destroyed New Orleans and severely damaged the Gulf Coast. EHDOC seniors across the country mobilized fundraising efforts for Hurricane Katrina Relief through EHDOC's Community Action Program (CAP) and the EHDOC Senior Relief Fund. Just last January, CAP initiatives raised \$25,000 for Tsunami Relief in Southeast Asia.

Little did the seniors know that their passion and commitment to help others would be needed to directly assist some of their EHDOC family in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Thousands of evacuees fled the New Orleans area which was destroyed when the levees broke in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. From August 28 on, they began arriving in many small Louisiana towns.

EHDOC teams were able to house up to 50 people in 31 Louisiana apartments at Oakwood (Cheneyville), Leisure Lane (Rayne), Village de Memoire I & II and Chateau des Amis (Ville Platte), and Savoy (Mamou).

The Community Managers, Service Coordinators and



Community Manager Debbie Clark, Service Coordinator Laura Betterton and Maintenance man Bo Ritter distribute microwaves and other items EHDOC is providing for the Katrina residents.

Maintenance Staff began working with community leaders and organizations to secure help for their new residents. They provided assistance which included applying for FEMA aide, securing prescriptions and locating missing family members.

Through fundraising efforts, EHDOC staff members (Pat Kohnke and Cristina Lopez) traveled to Louisiana to purchase and deliver essentials needed to set up homes for the evacuated families who had literally arrived with the "shirt on their backs."

Beds, furniture, microwaves, coffee pots, cookware, bedding, towels, dish sets, silverware, toiletries, and personal items were distributed to all the Katrina seniors and families.

"We were literally delivering the supplies when the next hurricane began to move in," shared Pat.

With the influx of Hurricane Rita evacuees, there have been new challenges, but everyone keeps targeted towards finding solutions.

As one resident shared, "This is a small community with a big heart."

Great Financial Support!
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"This is a small community with a big heart!"

Edna Weire, Katrina Evacuee, Chateau des Amis



This Special Edition of New Dimensions is dedicated to the generosity and teamwork of a caring community in the aftermath of two devastating hurricanes -- Katrina and Rita -- that hit the Gulf States.



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Katrina Stories



Esther and Roger Fontenot

"I am grateful there are places like this where people our age can find a place to live."

Esther Fontenot

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Your comments and thoughts are welcome. Please send them to news@ehdoc.org.

Roger and Esther Fontenot

As Hurricane Katrina headed for New Orleans, Roger and Esther Fontenot decided that they would not stay at their home near the 17th Canal Bridge.

They went to the New Orleans Grand Palace Hotel--the only hotel in New Orleans with vacant rooms. After several hours, the Fontenots were

asked to leave the hotel for safety. Hotel looting had begun.

"It was chaos," shared Roger. "The people in the room next to us started a fire when trying to Bar-B-cue inside the room. As we left, the police told us we could not take our car. So we started walking in the rain to go to a friend's house to stay Monday night. The waters on the streets were knee-deep then."

During the night the water started rising quickly and when it reached the height of the bed, Roger left to find help. He returned with water up to his chest.

"We saw helicopters pass over. We waved an American Flag but they did not stop to rescue us," shared Roger. "At this point we feared that we were going to die. After a few hours a boat came to pick us up and bring us to what we hoped would be a safer place.

"But our nightmare had just begun! The boat dropped us off on the Interstate near the Superdome. We were on our own again to find help. They were thousands and thousands of people waiting there."

The Fontenots had no water to drink, nothing to eat, and no phones or cell phone connections. The police kept saying they were

"People don't realize until they get in this position, how simple their needs are."

going to bring something to drink, but nothing came.

"We never slept that night," said Esther. "You had to watch out for yourself. Not everyone was sociable."

"One 70 or 80 year-old man stood with us. He said, 'Nobody will hurt y'all, as long as I'm here.' We wouldn't have been able to make it through the night without him."

The next day they decided to try walking again.

"We took a rest at a bus stop because Esther was exhausted," said Roger. "She had just had angioplasty surgery a week earlier."

An Hispanic couple came by the bus stop and offered to help. "We stayed in their home in Gretna for three nights," shared Esther.

"Although, they had no water or electricity, they shared what they had with us"

They learned their house was under water and that they had lost everything except the clothes they had on.

"The EHDOC staff brought us a bed, a chest of drawers, kitchen supplies (a microwave, towels, kitchenware, plates, glasses), a sofa.

"We got Food Stamps and clothing. People from the church would come by bringing toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shampoo, personal things."

Roger got a part-time job at Treasure Chest drugstore. "After working 40 years as a waiter at Antoines, it means a lot to him."

It was a miracle to find a place like Chateau, says Esther. After weeks of stress, fear and uncertainty, she and Roger are beginning to relax.

"I can sleep better," said Esther. "People don't realize until they get in this position, how simple their needs are."



Sylvan Laverne's Furniture store makes a delivery of donated furniture to Village de Memoire and Chateau des Amis.

The couple gave them a ride to Morgan City. There Roger was able to call his sister, who picked them up and brought them to her house in Ville Platte. They stayed in a camper for several days until they found Chateau des Amis.

"I would have slept on the floor! All I needed was a roof over my head. We are truly grateful there are places like this where people our age can find a place to live."

After a week in Ville Platte, Esther has begun to smile again.

Bernadette Bijou

Having survived Hurricane Betsy, 66-year-old Bernadette Bijou felt she would be safe in her senior apartment complex on the famous Dauphine St. in New Orleans' French Quarter.

Her complex suffered very little damage from the hurricane itself but, the following day, word began spreading that water was rising in her neighborhood a few blocks away.

Since she must have dialysis three times a week, she decided she had better go on to the Superdome so as not to disrupt her dialysis treatments.

She took her purse, cane, and a small blanket, thinking she would only have to "camp out" one night. She never realized, she says, that leaving her apartment that day would be the beginning of so much change.

"Home has taken on a whole new meaning."

"I stepped out of my apartment that fateful day and almost instantly became a homeless "bag lady."

Once Bernadette's health needs were assessed, she was fortunate to be taken almost immediately from the Superdome by helicopter to Louisiana State University Medical Center in Baton Rouge and eventually ended up at L.S.U. Alexandria, just a few miles from Oakwood.

Oakwood Community Manager Marilyn Jones was making daily trips to the shelter to help in any way possible and assist evacuees in finding housing. She was happy to offer Bernadette a quiet place in which to settle in,

recuperate from the trauma, and take care of her medical needs. Caring volunteers, including the mayor of Cheneyville, have helped make her transition as easy as possible.

Once at Oakwood, however, the manager realized that no arrangements had been made, nor were any available, to take Bernadette 10 miles to the nearest town for her dialysis treatments.

Oakwood Service Coordinator Carole Cox began making calls to every agency available from the local Medicaid office to the Governor's office on Elderly Affairs. In an unusual solution, Families Helping Families helped arrange for the Councils on Aging (C.O.A.) in two different parishes to work together. One COA paid for the transportation, and the other provided the actual transportation.

Bernadette has a strong will to begin again. The residents have made her feel a part of the community and home has taken on a whole new meaning.

Having lost her husband and her son in recent years, Bernadette found it very hard to lose her house, family keepsakes, pictures, etc. But she has been surrounded by caring people every step of the way.

A longtime Oakwood resident, Rose Darcy has many family members in the Parish. She told Bernadette, "You can be my sister."

"Now I have a big family," says Bernadette with tears in her eyes.

Pulling into the parking lot from her dialysis treatment, she exclaimed, "It's so good to be home."



Rosalyn Haywood

Rosalyn Haywood

Rosalyn Haywood's life is in many places. Her house is in New Orleans. She is caring for his sick father, Joseph Anthony in Ville Platte, LA. Her two kids are in Texas.

"My brother is taking care of my mother. I am looking after my father who is in the hospital. We are all lucky to be staying at Chateau des Amis.

"I don't have a home to go to right now. I am grateful to be able to stay with my mother in this nice place. We'll be here until my father is well enough to travel.

"It is important that we can relax right now until we figure out the next step. This place is a Godsend.

"There is one thing I've learned from Hurricane Rita. You get into the storm, but then at some time you have to come out of it."



Back: Pamela & Michael Folse, Carole Brissey; Front: Maria de Frame, Donna de Frame, Robert Brissey

The Folse/Brissey Families

Louisiana families are close-knit. When medical emergencies happen, they affect the whole family. Add a hurricane or two, and you have a major crisis on your hands.

Just before the levees broke, Carole Brissey, who lived in Terrytown (on the West Bank right outside of New Orleans) drove one car out of New Orleans. Her daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and Michael Folse, along with their 15-year old son, drove another. They headed to Jackson, Mississippi where they stayed in a hotel for a few days.

Carole's husband Robert Brissey, who had a kidney transplant, had been in a Lafayette hospital, then a nursing home and finally to his brother's home in

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Ville Platte. He slept with his dog in a truck for 4 days. Then he was admitted to the Ville Platte hospital.

"Daddy was too sick to go anywhere else so he called us to come join him in Ville Platte," said Pamela, who came with her husband Michael and 15-year old son.

Robert got out of the hospital on a Sunday. Then on Monday morning, Michael had a stroke! The family was in shock.

Chateau des Amis Community Manager Debbie Clark and Service Coordinator Laura Betterton immediately coordinated with churches, EHDOC residents, the Civic Center and other community resources to help them set up an apartment at Chateau des Amis.

The doctors and hospitals have helped them with medical care, prescriptions and reassurance. Residents have helped them with personal supplies and a lot of friendship.

"People here are doing all they can to help us."

"When we go into the T.V. room, nobody wants to watch TV. They want to talk to us," laughed Pamela.

"People here are doing all they can to help us," said Carole. "We were very surprised to see such generosity from people we don't even know."

The Folses and the Brisseys are among the many families that EHDOC has helped to get FEMA and Red Cross aide. Service Coordinators have spent hours on the telephone submitting applications.

"This crisis has definitely brought us together as a family and it has brought communities together," said Carole. "I don't know about you, but I didn't trust people anymore. Maybe living in a small town, it's different. But in a large city, it was really hard. I think this is teaching us to trust and to depend on each other."



A helicopter rescues residents from a New Orleans rooftop.

Ray Pomes

During World War II, 78 year old U.S. Navy veteran Ray Pomes spent three harrowing days and nights in the China Sea in the middle of a typhoon. But he says that experience paled in relation to what he and his family went through to escape Hurricane Katrina.

He joined his daughter Desiree and her fiancé Justin, at his ex-wife Doretta's home when Hurricane Katrina started hitting Louisiana. When the winds hit, the whole family left so quickly Ray went out without his shoes.

Their escape was perilous as they moved through waist-deep waters to try and get to the local hospital. They made it to the medical building closeby, but only after swift, swirling currents and vegetation drug both Ray and Doretta under several times. Justin broke the front glass door to get them inside.

"In the struggle, I lost my glasses and Desiree lost her purse. I grabbed onto a planter and by the grace of God, Justin dragged me into the building and I survived. By the time we got into the building I was exhausted. My feet were all cut up from the stones and debris."

"The water at the medical building stopped rising a foot from the second floor. We broke two big windows into the building to get air into it. The Charlemagne General Hospital nearby was getting flooded so they were evacuating the patients to a medical unit on the higher banks of the Mississippi River.

We started seeing a lot of boats come by heading for the hospital. Doretta, who is a

Registered Nurse, went around the medical center and started collecting boxes of medications."

Ray and his family saw many disturbing things. "One gentleman crawled out on the roof, dragging his leg. It looked broken. It was getting dark, so the boats stopped operating. All through the night, we heard this poor man crying out for help. We were feeling so bad for him because there was no way we could help.

"A lot of people left their animals at home. They were whining and crying. It was real hectic. While we were still in the medical building before evacuating to the ferry, one of the oil refineries near us blew up. All this oil mixed with the water.

One night, right before dawn we heard this "eee-eee-eee" sound outside. We looked out and saw this dolphin swimming around the building. He was lost and trapped in the oil. I guess he couldn't breathe properly. The next day he was belly up. He was such a beautiful animal. We saw bodies all over during our escape. It was a terrible thing to see."

But little miracles kept occurring. Search and rescue boats had begun going around the water-filled streets looking for survivors. One of the boats held their son Ron who was helping Louisiana Sen. Walter Boasso, who was helping coordinate the boat and helicopter evacuations. They had set up a medical unit. Doretta got word to the Senator that she had seven boxes of medication they could take to the medical unit.

"The Senator took the medications and we told him to go get the rest of the people stranded on their rooftops. We stayed in that

Continued on next page



A grateful resident gives Pat Kohnke a hug at a special dinner for the Katrina families.

building 4 nights and 5 days. Boats threw us water bottles and snacks to keep us going.

We told them to go get people who were in worse shape than us. They evacuated us on Day 5."

Once the family got on dry ground, they had to then walk to the ferry. Justin carried his future father-in-law several miles because Ray's feet were so cut up. At the ferry, Ray got medication for his feet and a pair of slippers. That night, they slept on tables and benches.

Doretta, who is a diabetic, began to feel very dizzy. She started going into insulin shock. Fortunately, Sen. Boasso heard about it and had a helicopter pick her up and take her to a hospital setup in the nearest airport. Like so many others, the family had become separated. By the time Ray and the rest of the family made it to the airport, she had been shipped out. They waited in lines for 8 hours to get a plane out of Louisiana.

The family was flown to an army base in Utah. Ray was admitted to a Veteran's hospital for medical care, then to an army base. Doretta was still missing, until Ray's daughter called her mother's doctor in San Antonio, TX and found out her mother was there in one of the area hospitals.

Ray's stepson and wife lived in Mamou, LA. After she was released from the hospital, Doretta joined them and Ray followed.

He was able to move into one of the Savoy Heights Apartments. Along with a bed and other furniture, kitchen utensils, clothing, and other personal items, Ray got a pair of temporary glasses and is going to have cataract surgery.

"They even got me a wheelchair. These people are wonderful."

The memories of their narrow escape are still fresh for Ray. "What was hard was hearing people crying for help at night, when it was dark and they had to stay on the rooftops as the waters kept climbing. We saw thousands of people stranded, children dehydrated, a lot of people who didn't make it.

"I am so grateful to be here, but I lie awake at night thinking of the people in shelters and places like the Superdomes who aren't as fortunate as me. I ask God, why do I have it so great while all these other people are still out there living in their cars, or in these big shelters all packed up like sardines. They don't have money to travel, to put gas in their cars. It's going to take a long time to get us back to normal.

"But I do know this," says Ray. "The only way you are going to get me out of here [Savoy] is to run me out!"



Above: Mayfield Manor residents pack up items for Care Packages to the Louisiana properties



Left: Community volunteers opened their hearts and wallets to stock a new Oakwood resident with kitchen supplies.

Carlnetta Jackson-McClinton

Carlnetta Jackson-McClinton made an early evacuation out of New Orleans, knowing her two adult developmentally-disabled sons would need to get to a Red Cross Special Needs Shelter in Alexandria. The days spent there were very difficult because of the lack of privacy and structure necessary for her children.

Oakwood's Community Manager, Marilyn Jones, was visiting the shelters regularly and realized the family needed a home and special services as quickly as possible.

First, she got Carlnetta and her sons into an Oakwood apartment.

Service Coordinator Carole Cox, after assessing the needs of the family, found the most pressing need was to help Carlnetta get her sons back into a daily routine.

Working with the Office for Citizens for the Developmentally Disabled, they were enrolled in the *John Eskew Training Center*, a vocational program they were able to attend daily from 8:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Even though she doesn't know the status of her own home, Carlnetta feels a greater sense of peace knowing her sons' needs are being met.

The Louisiana EHDOC Team Goes The Extra Mile



Home Health Care representatives from Evangeline Parish and Village de Memoire Service Coordinator Becky Beene answer questions on Hurricane Recovery.

We Louisianans are known for our hospitality. Still, I can't say enough about the goodness of all our staff, our residents, and our community who opened their hearts to the families taking shelter from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

We moved in our first people on Labor Day (Sept 4). One lady with two babies was living in a truck. We found her a place to live.

"We have had to ask the staff to go the extra 100 miles."

We went to the Civic Center and to places like Crooked Creek and Chico State Parks where evacuees were camping. We handed out flyers about housing at our facilities. We brought food, clothes and water. We helped families find resources they needed to survive.

When our Seniors found out the Katrina evacuees were lacking in food, clothing, etc., they reached deep into their own pockets and cupboards. They are on a low-income level themselves, but they gathered those supplies and took them to the new residents. It is such a good feeling to see the way they embraced their new neighbors.

We had purchased kitchen tools (like microwaves, coffee pots, sets of dishware and utensils) and other necessities from the EHDOC Senior Relief Funds that have been coming in from all over the country.

The Katrina residents came to us with very few belongings but generous hearts.

John Salisbury, came to Village de Memoire with two tee shirts and two pairs of cutoff shorts. That was it. He had nothing else. He moved into a studio apartment. We went out and got toiletries, food, clothing, a bed.

We had a special dinner to distribute the supplies. We had to insist that John take a microwave. He wouldn't take the plates, pots and pans. He said somebody else might need them!

Much of our time is spent making *lots* of phone calls, many trips to the store, checking in on the Internet, trying to locate family members, trying to get through to FEMA and the Red Cross. It was very difficult at first. We used the "Redial" button a lot!



Katrina evacuee Annie Liggins relaxes in her new apartment.

We made one phone call to our radio station and they responded immediately.

Individuals from the churches, from businesses, from stores, from the medical facilities have kept coming. They give and give and give again.

Furniture stores have delivered sofas, love seats, tables and chairs. Churches delivered personal care goodie bags. Other professionals in town are providing their services free of charge: dentists, ophthalmologists, barbers, beauticians, laundry services.

This crisis has really brought all of us closer together. As Community Managers-- we have had to ask the staff to go the extra "100" miles, and they are always willing. We have all stayed after hours, come in on weekends. No one complains. They keep the residents feeling cared for and secure. They never give up when it comes to helping others who are in need.

Information is one of the main things the evacuees have needed since they got here. Many were taken from their homes and left in a strange place. With the help of many caring people, they went from a "lonely, scared, I-don't-know-where-I am" feeling on Aug. 28 to a sense of community in three weeks.

Debbie Clark, Carolyn Jeane, Stephanie Bordelon, Marilyn Jones, Karen Brignac and Gene Ortego
Louisiana EHDOC Community Managers

As Service Coordinators, we have found it very important to take the time to listen to the Katrina seniors and evacuees. We act as advocates for these families, first doing an assessment on each family.

Each one took quite awhile because they all needed to talk. Many had gone through harrowing experiences just to get here. They needed us to listen to them.

Some of their stories are really hard to hear. They talk about their homes, their families, which they still worry about. But they are thankful that they have a place like ours to come home to.

Becky Beene, Laura Betterton, Carole Cox and Connie Hilton
Louisiana EHDOC Service Coordinators

A Caring Community



Senior volunteers sort incoming food at the Ville Platte Civic Center Food Pantry.

The spirit of giving is a part of every EHD OC community.

When Council House needed help a few years ago, an idea was inspired for a Community Action Program (CAP) to expand the awareness of how a community can not only help seniors, but each other.

Ville Platte is a wonderful example of a community that rose to the

challenge of receiving hundreds of evacuees to their small town (12,000) and coordinating a fine-tuned assistance program.

The hub of activities began at the Civic Center, a community center located across from Village de Memoire I & II. Volunteers starting arriving on August 29 as soon as the Hurricane Katrina evacuees did. The LSUI AgCenter (4-H office) closed up for several days to help set up the Civic Center and collect donations.

Barbara Delafosse, a community volunteer who arrived that first day, has spent the last 3 weeks organizing an army of volunteer cooks from the local churches, banks, businesses, and community organizations.

“When we see things that need to be done, we just do it!”

“We serve two hot meals a day—lunch and dinner,” says Barbara. Volunteers, including EHD OC Seniors, have been feeding between 150-200 people every meal. They also help sort clothing, food supplies and help evacuees search online for family members or register for FEMA.

Food items and supplies have arrived from around the state and even out-of-state. A group of Boy Scouts from Lafayette brought a large donation of clothing from the Cajun Dome. A truck from Oregon delivered 2-3 tons of food. With no place to store the food, volunteers got on the phone and within an hour, a large semi-refrigerated truck arrived.

“We don’t turn away donations!!” Barbara emphasized. “Our many volunteers organize them and find people who can use them.”

Many of the Katrina families who live now at Chateau and Village have appreciated both the wholesome meals and the fellowship.

The Community Managers and Service Coordinators from Chateau des Amis and Village de Memoire have worked closely with all the volunteer efforts long before the current crisis. So when they let the community know what their new residents needed, everybody immediately responded.

Volunteer Jennifer Vitrairie currently coordinates the shelter operation. “We are thankful we have places like the Chateau, Village and Savoy Heights. There were people here who could not stay at the shelters--seniors, families with elderly parents, those needing medical help.”

“I’m proud of the whole community,” said Bill Gidrey, the Parish President. “I’ve seen the same folks here for the last 30 days showing up to help. That’s the kind of people we are in Ville Platte. When we see things that need to be done, we just do it!

CAP Efforts Across the Country

EHD OC Seniors have raised over \$15,000 for the Senior Relief Fund. Other fundraising efforts include

Senate, North Park Village, Prete (Chicago, IL)

Allied Van Lines provided two semi-tractor trailers to transport food, bottled water, 800 sets of clean sheets (donated by the Swiss Grand Hotel), clothing, diapers, blankets, toiletries, etc.

Lloyd McBride Court (Millvale, PA)

Remembering the flooding and devastation in Millvale caused by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004, the Resident Social Committee held a donation drive and Community Bingo.

Robert Sharp Towers I & II (Miami, FL)

The residents had a very successful Bake Sale and Raffle along with a Movie and Popcorn Evening.

South Boston (Boston, MA)

A “Bingo Bash” Fundraiser received generous donations from residents and the Resident Association.

Clyde F. Simon Lakeview Apartments (Bath, NY)

The CFS residents partnered in a 50/50 Raffle with local businesses like Pro Action (On-site meals), Mercury Aircraft, Steuben County Office for the Aging, & Bath National Bank.

Spring Rock Park (Leeds, ME)

Spring Rock Park Residents organized Personal Care Packages for the Louisiana properties, assembling soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, disposable razors, shampoos, and other essentials.

Pine Grove Apartments (Pineville LA)

Residents collected gowns and robes in response to a plea from Area nursing homes. They also donated canned goods and non-perishable food items to the local Food Bank.

Jacksonville Towers (Jacksonville, AR)

The Tenant Association contributed cash donations to the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and the EHD OC Senior Relief Fund. They organized a drive for kitchen ware.

Chateau Cushnoc (Augusta, ME)

A Spaghetti Benefit Supper was held with donations, door prizes from area businesses.

Mayfield Manor I, II & III (Canton, OH)

Care Packages were sent to new Katrina residents at Oakwood, Chateau des Amis, Village I & II and Savoy Heights.

Hugh Carcella (Reading, PA)

Staff and residents held a Bake Sale and Raffle with Raffle prizes donated by many area businesses.

Dino Papavero (Fontana, CA)

Residents, staff and community partners held a special Raffle of beautiful handcrafted gifts Area businesses will match the resident’s donations!

After the Storms

The challenges continue. Hurricane Rita delivered a major blow to Morse Manor, in Morse, LA which is less than 20 miles from Lake Charles. Sections of the roof were blown off. There was extensive damage from heavy rains and electrical power will be out for a few more weeks.

All 20 residents were evacuated before the hurricane hit, and temporarily housed with family members. EHDOC is giving each Morse resident a gift certificate for \$50 for the local grocery store to replace groceries lost in the power outage.

Village de Memoire, Chateau des Amis, Sunshine Center, Pine Grove, Leisure Lane, Savoy Heights and Oakwood all sustained some wind and water damage. Maintenance staff Wayne Rose, Jimmy Fontenot, Bo Ritter, Wilson Istre, Gary Reed, James Parks and Brad Capps have been busy making repairs.

The Ville Platte Civic Center had to temporarily close down its shelter, meal service and food pantry. But a new location was quickly found at the old Holloway Plant. Community Action Director Jennifer Vitrairie will continue to oversee operations.

Louisiana EHDOC Service Coordinators have been busy taking assessments and securing the next wave of Food Stamps, FEMA, prescription aide and health care for all the evacuees.

"Emergency Food Stamps for the month of October were finally issued for the Louisiana Parishes. Then Becky recently found a pharmacy that was willing to give a 30-day supply of emergency medications to the Hurricane Rita evacuees.

"About 1.5 million people have registered with FEMA since Katrina struck," shared Becky. "I have been working with four families to try and get them registered with FEMA.

Internet and phone lines have been frozen so Senate Service



A Rita evacuee (R) gets help with a FEMA application from Village de Memoire I Service Coordinator Becky Beene.

Coordinator Lourdine Biedrzycki stepped right in to help us in registering our new residents from the Chicago property."

"The staff at every EHDOC Louisiana property has been at this non-stop for over 20 days and they never stop caring," said Cristina Lopez.

"We have a lot of people staying with family members who need assistance," shared Village Community Manager Gene Ortego. A mother, father and little girl are staying at Village de Memoire with the grandmother, resident Sharon Fagin. They had fled the West End area of New Orleans. Although their house wasn't flooded, they haven't been allowed to go back yet.

"Since they don't qualify for the FEMA aide," said Becky, "we have to see if we can help them through a Small Business loan. Somehow, we'll find a way."

And one person or one family at a time...they do.

EHDOC Thanks the Generous Donors Supporting Senior Relief Fund

AAHSA - Larry Minnix, President & CEO	\$35,000	Jesus Ministries Family Worship Center	\$ 1,000
AFL-CIO - John Sweeney, President	\$ 5,000	Communications Workers of America International - Larry Cohen, President	\$ 1,000
Arthur and Edith Hessel	\$ 1,000	Structural Waterproofing	\$ 1,500
Bank of America	\$20,000	Metz Lewis LLC - Steve Petrikis	\$ 1,000
Bellows Associates, P.A. - Dina Bellows	\$ 1,000	Susan L. Phillips	\$ 500
Blue Cross/Blue Shield National Labor Office	\$ 5,000	Steve Protulis - EHDOC Executive Director	\$ 500
Greater St. Louis Health Foundation - Ken Worley	\$ 5,000	The Hecky Group - Larry Hecky, President	\$ 500

EHDOC Staff and Residents have raised \$15,000

Contributions as of October 10, 2005. To be updated in our next issue.

Donations to the Senior Relief Fund can be made by sending a check in the attached envelope or go to www.ehdoc.org