

New Orleans Updates

from Sr. Maureen and her elves
Sunday, February 24, 2008– Part 1

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE TEAM IN THE FIRST WEEK

Jeff Gibbons, Jim Treat, Sam Haro, and Ashlye Fletes completed the roof repair at Alvin Lee's House.

When we were rained-out on Thursday, a team reupholstered the pews at our host facility, The Center of Jesus the Lord, a charismatic Catholic community.

Our members cleaned out the house of Ferdinand Blanks' relative in preparation for rehabilitation.

The Bob Carter team stripped the outside of Garmanne Mack's house, put up plywood where needed, and completely wrapped the house in Tyvek.

Worked at St. Peter Claver to recycle wood and prepared two buildings for paint.



Ashlye Fletes



Damage to Lee's house

NUNS ON THE RUN

These ladies work very hard. Sister Ingrid, C.S. J., from Concord, California, received an injury when a hammer fell from a ladder she was moving. She forgot that she placed the hammer on top. She iced the wound and received a hard hat award from Dick Belprez.

Anyone who's ever followed Sister Maureen, knows that she is on the run and doesn't always see traffic advisory signs. Sister Maureen is up early every day and works until late at night hoping to have everything run smoothly. She was amused and quite calm when two of our cars broke down at the same time just outside the Center on Monday.



Cecilia Roper, Jeff Gibbons at Church

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Sunday, February 25, 2008—Part 2

OSCAR NIGHT IN NEW ORLEANS

Hollywood was abuzz over the weekend because stars were arriving with their entourages and tiny dogs in Gucci bags. Makeup artists, cosmeticians, and pedicurists tended to every need of the famous. Representatives from Cartier and Harry Winston doled out the bling.

The Nawlins Nine also arrived in style on Saturday night in a black stretch limo at the old monastery but they came to work, not knowing where they would be needed.

Sunday night, The Nawlins Nine: Judy Mitchell, Judy Mozell, Marilyn Murphy, Diane Morgan, Chris Gervasi, Suzee Irwin, Pina Shaw, Theresa Takatori,

Megan Helzendeger, and Bev Thornburgh asked to assist the volunteers at Center of Jesus the Lord in their weekly presentation of food to the homeless. They transported the food to a freeway underpass in the dark. They couldn't see anyone until the lights went on in the service truck. They described what they saw and did as surreal. There before them were about 200 hungry people, most of them black, most of them male. There were a few females, some teenagers, and one white face.

Father John from the Center gave the opening prayer. The food was gratefully and courteously received. The Center also gave out as many clean socks as they could on the condition that the old socks be turned in and not sold on the street. A group from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, set up a prayer corner for those who wanted some solace. They come once a month to tend to the people. Other churches in the area provide food several nights during the week.

Some people live under the overpass because they are the working poor. They can't live in shelters because they work evening and morning shifts. They can't be in at 10:00pm and out in the morning. Of course, some are there because of addictions. The nurses in our group-- Judy Mitchell, Judy Mozell, Marilyn Murphy, Diane Morgan, and physical therapist, Chris Gervasi, tended to the unwashed hands and feet of the participants. One man had gashed his hand at his sheet metal job. The women cleaned and bound his wound by flashlight, borrowed from one of the homeless. They washed and tended to the feet of another man with a huge blister and skin peeling away.

When the people were fed, the wounds dressed, and closing prayers said, the people disappeared into the darkness. Clean socks and warm food, and the single light of hope from a borrowed flashlight were the bling doled out to the needy of Orleans Parish.



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More New Orleans Pictures at Stevens' House



Bob Carter, Diane Morgan, Chris Gervasi, Megan Helzendeger



Sr. Maureen



Judy Mitchell and Christian Stevens



Tactical Discussion of Drywall

New Orleans Updates from Sr. Maureen and her elves Sunday, February 24, 2008—Part 4

Sr. Maureen



Sr. Ingrid Receiving Award



Fleur di Lis



Sam Haro, Danny Treat, Jim Treat