

Report on Livingston CARES May 2006 Work-Trip to Gulfport

Prepared by Connie Hurlburt, Trip Leader

Following a very successful Alternative Spring Break trip (March 2006) to Harrison County, Mississippi, a third trip for SUNY Geneseo, Livingston CARES, and HOPE Unites was arranged. Each member of the team paid \$305 plus their own airfare.

I made plans to travel ahead of the group to make our work arrangements. We once again were hosted by the North Carolina Baptist Men's Christian Association (NCBMCA) in Gulfport. This time our whole group was housed at the Gulfport Armory (home of the NCBMCA). Friday afternoon, May 12th, Tom and I picked up our work sheet and immediately drove to our homeowner's site and met Ms. Ruby Farley. I knew this was going to be a good week from the moment we met. After an assessment of the home, Tom and I returned to the NCBMCA, picked up supplies and began making our plan of action.

On Monday I picked up our group at the New Orleans International Airport and after a short visit to the Bourbon Street area, returned to Gulfport and the NCBMCA. Early on Tuesday, May 16th we arrived at Ruby's home and began our work. Through the very diligent efforts of all of our team, we accomplished the following:

- assisted homeowner in the selection of overhead fans for each room;
- ceilings and closets were textured painted;
- designed kitchen cabinet layout (with the help of Genevieve), and met with company to arrange placing the order and discussing installation;
- entry doors removed, scraped, repainted and reinstalled;

- exterior front and back outside lights installed
- faux wood blinds purchased and installed on all windows and adjusted for size;
- house numbers installed to front of the home;
- interior room doors installed;
- medicine cabinets and lights were purchased and installed, and GFC outlets were installed;
- outlet covers installed throughout the home;
- painted and installed closet doors;
- pantry and bathroom shelves made, painted and installed;
- security locks and door knobs were installed to both the front and back doors;
- sheet rock sanded on the whole interior;
- shelves and clothing rods were installed in closets;
- shower curtain rods installed;
- sink and cabinets installed in two bathrooms;
- toilets returned to working order;
- two coats of paint applied on whole interior of home, etc.

Our team worked very cohesively and we arrived at Ruby's each morning by 8:00 am and never left the site before 5:00 pm. At the end of each day Ruby never forgot to give everyone a hug and to thank us personally. We never lost sight of our goal to return our homeowners house back to a home while showing her compassion and concern. Our group members were good listeners. While both Frank and I were not on our first work venture to the Gulf Coast, it was all new to the student members of our group and I know they felt profoundly

grateful for the opportunity to be a part of helping in the relief efforts.
On Sunday, May 21st the group traveled to Biloxi prior to daybreak to watch the implosion of the Grand Casino. It was very breathtaking and afterwards we were

interviewed by the local TV station and made the 6 pm news! Following a breakfast outing to a local restaurant, we made one last trip to Ms. Farley's to say good-bye and the students presented her with a good-bye plant!

Livingston CARES May 2006 work trip participants included:

Genevieve Bernier, SUNY Geneseo Student
Jennifer DelCourt, SUNY Geneseo Student
Jill DelTosta, SUNY Geneseo Student
Trevor Ramsey-Macomber, SUNY Geneseo Student
Kaye Robinson, SUNY Geneseo student
Frank Kelsey, retired Kodak electrician
Connie Hurlburt, (team leader) semi-retired SUNY Geneseo
Tom Hurlburt, Navy Seabee volunteer stationed at Gulfport Naval Base