

ABOUT THE PROGRAM - Facts and Mission Statement

The St. Bernard Project (www.stbernardproject.org) is a nonprofit, grassroots organization that began rebuilding homes in August 2006 in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. Since the beginning, the Saint Bernard Project (SBC) has rebuilt 1 homes and has worked on 135 homes in the parish. St. Bernard is a uniquely tight-knit, working class community adjacent to New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward and is arguably the area hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina.

The St. Bernard Project helps families whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita move home by purchasing building materials and installing these materials with the support of volunteers. Some of the activities you can expect to do during your experience are: installing insulation and drywall, mudding (spackling), texturing, painting, installing floors, baseboard and trim, yard work, exterior painting and much, much more!

The organization's goal is to help families move out of their FEMA trailers and back home as quickly and economically as possible. SBP is a United Way funded organization relying on individuals and companies to support their efforts.

The SBP removes barriers for families who wish to move back into their homes in St. Bernard Parish. Mainly, they are a rebuilding organization; using volunteer labor and donations for building supplies to rebuild homes. On average, it takes six-to-eight weeks and \$10,000 worth of building supplies to completely rebuild a house that has been gutted to the studs. To address other client needs, SBP provide a tool co-op, a small community center, and activity groups for the residents. While clients face significant barriers, the problems these families face are easily solved by St. Bernard Project. SBP raises funds for donated materials and recruit volunteers; as result homes get rebuilt, and residents finally get to move back home.

Before Katrina in St. Bernard Parish

- The population was 67,000 and the Parish had 27,000 homes
- Unemployment was only 4%
- Home ownership rate was greater than 70%
- Median family income was merely \$36K
- Senior citizens comprised 50% percent of the population prior to the storm
- Residents worked as fishermen, in the trades, and at refineries

After Katrina

- 100% of the homes in St. Bernard Parish were rendered uninhabitable
- St. Bernard had standing water of 4 to 20 feet for up to 4 weeks
- Homes, clothes, furniture, pictures, keepsakes, cars and tools were destroyed
- Only one-third of residents have been able to move back, with the vast majority of returned residents still living in FEMA trailers or attics that were above the waterline
- Just one-fourth of the businesses have been able to re-open

SBP Services

- Support a Family Program: SBP meet residents' rebuilding needs by raising funds for building materials and installing the materials via volunteer labor. The St. Bernard Project runs lean. The program can take an average St. Bernard home that is gutted to bare studs and install insulation, drywall, floors, doors, windows, plumbing, wiring, cabinets, countertops, and appliances for about \$10,000 in six to eight weeks.
- Tool Co-op: Residents who can do the rebuilding work themselves can borrow power tools from the tool co-op.
- Community Center: SBP provide Internet access, fax and phone services.

SBP Partners

- Habitat for Humanity, AmeriCorps, Church of the Brethren and Christian Aid Ministries are among the groups that provide us with volunteer labor.
- General Electric and United Way are two of our largest funders.
- Southern Mutual Help Association, Church World Services and Salvation Army provide funds for rebuilding costs.
- Tide, Boeing, Shell Oil and Johnson & Johnson are among our substantial corporate funders.

What Donated Funds Will Do

- 100% of funds donated, unless specifically earmarked, go to directly to purchasing building supplies.
- \$2,500 buys the necessary insulation and drywall for an average house.
- \$1,800 buys the flooring for an average house.
- \$1,400 buys a sink and the bottom part of kitchen cabinets.
- \$1,300 buys windows for an average house.
- \$1,100 buys the necessary electrical supplies, including the wire and the panel.
- \$800 buys interior and exterior doors for the average house.
- \$500 buys toilets, sinks, tubs and tile for a bathroom.
- \$400 buys a stove, washer or dryer.
- \$300 buys a water heater.
- **\$10,000 will fund total supplies necessary to rebuild the average house.**

Why St. Bernard?

St. Bernard Parish is an industrious community comprised of middle class and working class families. It is a community of veterans, of people who hold potluck dinners to benefit disaster victims elsewhere, an area where local fishermen and shrimpers give part of their daily catch to the less fortunate. Generations of families lived within blocks of one another. Neighbors could trace their friendships back to their grandparents and beyond.

For most, all savings were tied up in their homes. In the years before Katrina, insurance companies rezoned St. Bernard out of the flood plain, so most residents no longer had flood insurance after decades of paying for it. Then Katrina hit, and the people of St. Bernard lost everything. Seventy-five percent of families were under- or uninsured.

Two weeks after the storm, the water was gone as were neighbors, friends, and family, but people wanted to come back. There are no beautiful mountains here, no lakes or beaches, no stunning vistas—yet the residents have endured heartbreak and tribulation in their effort to return. It may seem odd until one meets them and spends a few days in their midst. The community, camaraderie, and courage in St. Bernard are something most of the rest of the United States dreams of but cannot find. Having known it, the people of this parish won't let it go easily. And having known them, SBP cannot let that happen either.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE

Opportunities exist for both skilled and unskilled “builders” including: repair/replace roofs, install exterior doors and windows, install insulation, hang sheetrock/drywall, tape sheetrock joints, mud/spackle, put down flooring, install interior door, trim and cabinets, yard work and paint.

SBP is always looking for skilled carpenters, electricians and plumbers.

You will participate in orientation and get a work assignment with directions. SBP can answer questions about the family you will be helping. If you are coming as a chapter/group, please keep in mind the group may have to be split up. SBP work at various sites each day and may split up groups so that all volunteers have work to do.

A site supervisor will work with you at your site. These supervisors are often AmeriCorps volunteers who are learning about rebuilding homes, so they may not be construction experts; however, they are the leaders at the site. The site supervisor reports to a construction manager, who manages 10-12 sites. The construction manager visits the different sites each day to check on progress. Construction managers receive supply orders from site supervisors and then contact our supply runners, who are in charge of purchasing and delivering supplies.

When volunteering with the St. Bernard Project, please keep in mind that everyone working with you is donating his/her time. SBP is a small staff and the runners and construction managers are responsible for several work sites

WHAT TO BRING

- work clothes (please bring a long sleeve shirt and long pants in case you’re doing insulation- as you want to be covered up!)
- camera and batteries
- sturdy tennis shoes and/or work boots
- insect repellent
- sunscreen
- tools! For those who are skilled electricians and plumbers, you are welcome to bring your tools with you. Please mark tools to prevent mix-ups (SBP tools are marked with neon green paint)

APWA will provide work gloves and face masks, for those who need these supplies.

HOUSING OPTIONS

Hotels included in the APWA room block at Congress are available for participants who are supporting the SBP. Room rates have been negotiated to provide affordable options to members and guests. Some additional housing options for “APWA Builders” to consider for August 14 and 15 include:

Celebration Church- 100 ppl max

2001 Airline Dr., Metairie LA 70001
504.324.9685, reliefcenterdb@yahoo.com
\$25/person/night- Continental breakfast, sack lunch, and dinner.

Good Shepherd UCC- 25 ppl max, 3 showers

5122 W. Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA 70006
504.234.7608, office@gsucc.com
Bunk beds for 20 to 25 in two separate buildings and the spill over in rooms in the fellowship hall which consists of a gymnasium, full commercial kitchen, three showers and restrooms, and classrooms. Fee is \$10/night or \$50/week per

person. Groups prepare their own meals.

St. Charles Guest House

1748 Prytania St., New Orleans, LA, 70130
Phone: 504 523 6556, dhilton111@aol.com
www.stcharlesguesthouse.com
Located in the Lower Garden District, simple, affordable accommodations. Rates from \$20-\$60/ night.

Depot House

748 O’Keefe, New Orleans, LA 70113
504.529.2952, dhilton111@aol.com

Owned by the Hiltons (St. Charles Guest House), this B&B is in the Warehouse District about seven blocks from the French Quarter.

Contact Tammy Biller or Chu Tran and ask about the Hurricane Relief rate.

Holiday Inn - French Quarter-Chateau Lemoyne

301 Rue Dauphine, New Orleans, LA 70112 Phone: 504 581 1303

Offers volunteers a rate of \$79/night Sundays – Thursdays, \$149 over weekends, depending on availability.

Volunteer House- 21 ppl, 2 showers

Violet, LA

Shane & Jessica Grimes

www.volunteerhouse.org

714.686.1834, shane.grimes@adelphia.net

TRANSPORTATION TO WORK SITE and MEALS

APWA will provide transportation to the work site from the New Orleans Convention Center.

More information will be provided to each “APWA Team Saint Bernard” builder upon receiving a registration form.

APWA will provide a sack lunch on both days along with bottled water. If you would like additional food or beverages (no alcoholic drinks permissible), you will need to supply these items.

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

Work Carefully

You’re working on someone’s house, so please try to be as careful as possible when performing a task. Follow the guidelines that the site supervisor gives you. SBP can fix most mistakes but this will mean a delay in the project which translates into a family waiting even longer to be able to move into their home.

Safety

Please be careful on the job site. Power tools are awesome but can do serious damage to fingers and limbs. If you have asthma, bring your inhaler. If you have chronic joint pain, don’t volunteer for work that will aggravate it. Stay hydrated. Be careful climbing ladders and benches, lifting sheetrock – just use common sense!

Sensitivity

Please be sensitive when communicating with families. Don’t make ANY promises. Don’t tell them you’re going to finish their house. Be a good listener – sometimes clients just want to talk; however, even if you think you know how they feel, don’t tell them that. Some people take offense to that comment. Again, use common sense.

Families occasionally provide lunch, not all families are financially able to feed all individuals and groups. If homeowners do prepare food, please accept graciously, this is their way of thanking you for all your hard work!

Respect the house you’re working on. This is someone’s home and they come in frequently to check on progress. Please do not draw or write inappropriate things on the drywall. And please, please do not use pen to write on the sheetrock-it will show up later. A note to smokers – please do not smoke in the houses.

WAYS TO HELP BEYOND GIVING YOUR TIME

If you’d like to make donations, SBP accept tools for its tool co-op, working office supplies (including computers) and funds. Please contact Brian Van Norman at 800-848-2792, ext. 5260 or bvannorman@apwa.net for more information. Financial donations to support SBP can be sent directly to APWA. Make checks payable to APWA, noting on the memo line a donation for Saint Bernard Project. Send contributions to the attention of Brian Van Norman at 2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 700, Kansas City, MO 64108.

APWA Saint Bernard Project Builder Registration Sign Up

Please complete this online registration form. After you submit your registration, you should receive an email confirmation. Additional information will be sent to you providing updates to your experience in supporting the Saint Bernard Project. Please contact Brian Van Norman at 800-848-2792, ext. 5260 or bvannorman@apwa.net with any questions.

Individual Registration / Group Reservation

Name:

APWA Member: Yes No

APWA Chapter (if applicable):

Primary Phone:

Cell phone:

Email:

Address:

City/State (Province):

Zip Code:

I will volunteer on:

___ Friday, August 15 (At worksite from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

___ Saturday, August 16 (At worksite from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Information as to departure times from the New Orleans Convention Center will be provided to you approximately two weeks before the event.

I am: Over the age of 18

Under 18

(All “APWA Builders” must be a minimum of 14 years old. For those under 16 years old, you must be accompanied by your parent or legal guardian. For those between 16 and 18, an adult chaperone must be in attendance.)

If under 18, Parents/Guardian Names: _____

Parents/Guardian Phone: _____ Parents/Guardians Email: _____

Please indicate if you have previous advanced skills experience in the following areas:
(No previous experience is required as training will be provided for all participants.)

	<u># of years experience</u>	<u>Can Direct Others? (Y/N)</u>
Electrical Wiring Work		
Plumbing		
Carpentry		



Waiver Form

FOR VOLUNTEERS UNDER 18

(Volunteers over 18, please complete and sign this form and bring it when you report onsite. If you are under 18, please have a parent or guardian sign this agreement ahead of time if they will not be coming with you. Please read before signing, as this constitutes the agreement as a volunteer and the understanding of your working relationship with the St. Bernard Project. Please print all information clearly)

VOLUNTEER PARTICIPANT LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

I, _____ (enter name of volunteer, please print legibly), acknowledge and state the following: I have chosen to travel to the work site to perform cleanup/construction work in disaster relief. I understand that this work entails a risk of physical injury and often involves hard physical labor, heavy lifting, and other strenuous activity; and that some activities may take place on ladders and building framing other than ground level. I certify that I am in good health and physically able to perform this type of work.

I understand that I am engaging in this project at my own risk. I understand that this is a “grass roots” activity to support individuals adversely affected by the disaster. I assume all risk and responsibility for any damage or injury to my property or any personal injury which I may sustain while involved in this project, and related material costs and expenses.

In the event that my supervising disaster organization arranges accommodations, I understand that they are not responsible or liable for my personal effects and property and that they will not provide lock up or security for any items. I will hold them harmless in the event of theft or for loss resulting from any source or cause. I further understand that I am to abide by whatever rules and regulations may be in effect for the accommodations at that time.

By my signature, for myself, my estate and my heirs, I release, discharge, indemnify and forever hold the St. Bernard Project, together with its officers, agents, servants and employees, harmless from any and all causes of action arising from my participation in this project, and travel or lodging associated therewith, including any damages which may be caused by their own negligence.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your Volunteer group: American Public Works Association

Date(s) volunteering: _____

Address: _____

Cell phone: _____

Email address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Telephone: _____

Parent's Signature if under 18 _____