



**Joining Hands is a joint mission of:
Evangelical Lutheran Churches from
Lower Susquehanna Synod
Northeastern Iowa Synod**

And

Rotary Clubs from District 7390

***The Mission of Joining Hands is to assist in the
Hurricane Katrina Disaster Rebuilding Effort,
centered on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi***

Winter—Spring 2008
Newsletter



**JOINING HANDS
BUILDS NEW
CONSTRUCTION IN EAST BILOXI**

Starting with a foundation, we raised the walls, added a roof, installed windows and doors, put on siding, installed drywall, painted inside and out, hung cabinets/doors/baseboard, installed bathroom fixtures, laid flooring, built a handicap ramp and enclosed a screened in porch.

We also raised money to pay for the materials and the sub contractors.

Construction started Monday, January 7, 2008
and the house was finished on March 14, 2008.

9 Work Weeks

86 Construction Volunteers

3,760 Volunteer Hours

Plus 8 volunteers worked in the kitchen preparing meals for the volunteers, or served as nurses or counselors in the Bethel Free Medical Clinic.

The original home received 8 feet of flood waters and other related damages from Katrina.

The family lost their home and possessions and lived in a FEMA camper while patiently and prayerfully waiting for help. Juanita is employed by Hands-On Network Inc, an elderly outreach agency, and Willis is employed by Place Casino. They have two sons, Willis Jr., age 14, and Cortez, age 9.

How did this family survive following Katrina? The family believed that God would restore all that was lost; they simply had to be patient. In the meantime they got involved in helping others and encouraging their neighbors to have faith.



WHO WERE THOSE 94 VOLUNTEERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 2008 NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT?

There were Christian Churches, Rotary Clubs, a School, and Individuals.

Rotary District 7390 Clubs: - 19 Volunteers

Colonial Park PA
Hanover PA
Harrisburg PA
Lancaster North East PA

Mechanicsburg North PA
West York PA
Wrightsville PA

Dauphin County Technical School, PA.—13 Student Volunteers and 2 Faculty

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, GA—12 Volunteers

St. Bartholomew Lutheran, PA—9 Volunteers

St. Paul's Lutheran, PA—8 Volunteers

St. John Lutheran, IA—8 Volunteers

Plus Volunteers from:

29th Street United Methodist—PA

Advent Lutheran—GA

Evangelical Free Church—PA

Grace Lutheran Church—PA

Lingelstown Life Church —PA

Living Water Community Church—PA

St. James Lutheran—IA

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran—PA

Westlake Church of God—FL

Rotary District 7370 Hegin-Valley View Club— PA

Jan. 6th—26th—FRAMING
Crew Chiefs Marc Quade and Chris Erickson



Feb 10th—16th
INSULATION & DRYWALL
Crew Chief Tom Johnston



Feb 18— March 8th
INTERIOR
Crew Chief Peg Sennett



SPECIAL THANKS

The Rotary Club of Biloxi MS received a donation of \$10,000.00 from the Rotary Club of Locust Valley New York, for the purpose of helping to rebuild Biloxi. The Biloxi Rotary Club generously turned the \$10,000.00 over to *Joining Hands* to assist with financing this new construction project.

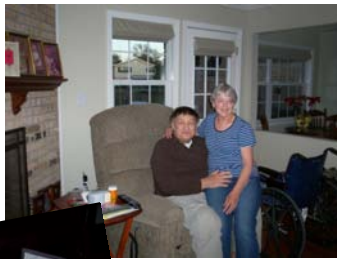
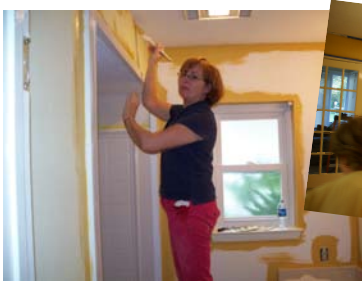
Additionally, the Rotary Club of Biloxi leveled the land and placed sod on the property.



March 9th—15th
FINISHING TOUCHES
Crew Chief John Judson



***Joining Hands* makes renovations to the home of Ms. Judy Jones.** While her home was not destroyed, it did suffer water damage from the driving rains of Katrina. Judy is the Director of the Bethel Free Medical Clinic. Since Judy unselfishly gives her time and talents to the Clinic, the least that we could do is provide the labor to paint and lay new flooring which returned her home to the pleasant and comfortable surroundings of pre Katrina days.



In 2007, *Joining Hands* totally restored the home of Judy and Vince. The couple had recently retired when Katrina deposited 8 feet of surge water in their home. Located on the back bay, with a lovely view of the water, this neighborhood had never been flooded, even during Hurricane Camille. The loss of home and community impacts everyone differently; for Judy and Vince their health failed them and they were forced to move to their son's home in Arkansas.



After 94 volunteers finished their work, Vince and Judy moved back into their home before Christmas 2007, but they held off on the dedication until members of *Joining Hands* returned to Biloxi. So on Saturday, March 1, 2008, Bethel's Pastor Barb, friends, family, members of Bethel Lutheran, and volunteers from *Joining Hands*, gathered to bestow blessings and love on this beautiful new home and to the returning health of Vince and Judy.

JOINING HANDS PARTNERS WITH PROJECT REHAB

From January 2006 to December 2007, *Joining Hands* selected home restoration projects through Lutheran Disaster Response.

In January 2008, we decided to coordinate our first new construction project with Project REHAB (Habitat of Northern Virginia). This partnership was a blessing that made our efforts so much easier.

As the general contractor, Bart Tucker and the Project REHAB staff obtained the permits and subcontractors and provided supplies and materials. They would stop in several times during the day to give guidance and to oversee all aspects of the construction.

Another benefit to partnering with Project REHAB is that we can send teams anytime during the year and Bart Tucker will assign the team to a project in progress. Plans are already underway to partner with Project REHAB for our second new construction project to begin in January 2009.

Volunteers Needed!

Whether you are skilled or not, anyone can volunteer and there is always something you can help with, including

- Framing, roofing
- Drywall hanging
- Carpentry
- Painting
- Cooking meals at the church
- Housekeeping at the church
- Clerical work at the church
- Pastors & Counselors for the free medical clinic
- Nurses for the free medical clinic

By no means will you be bored and you will enjoy the feeling you get at the end of the day -- no, not being tired, but the feeling of accomplishment and the fact that you helped make a difference in someone's life.

UPCOMING MISSIONS

- November 3—8, 2008
- December 6—11, 2008
- January—March 2009, new construction

You can join any of the above trips. Registration deadline is 30-days prior to departure.

Would your Group, Church, Rotary Club like to go to Biloxi, but for a different week than listed above? Let us know the week you have selected, we will spread the word to all *Joining Hands* volunteers to see if others would like to join the team.

We will coordinate your reservations and complete all necessary paperwork for you.

What will it cost me to volunteer?

- Suggested donation of \$20 per day to Bethel Lutheran Church, or what you can afford to donate for your housing and meals.
- Transportation to/from Biloxi. Some volunteers drive or carpool, and others fly. Nearby airports include Gulfport where pickup/delivery is provided by Bethel, or New Orleans and Mobile, which would require you to rent a car.

What can I expect if I volunteer?

- Housing (meals, hot showers, sleeping on a bunk or air mattress) at Bethel Lutheran Church or other location as assigned.
- Hard work at job site from approximately 8:00am to 4:30pm
- Fellowship with other Volunteers
- A tremendous sense of accomplishment

FOR INFORMATION ON DONATING TIME OR MONEY CONTACT

Peg Sennett

Founder
Phone: 717-630-8281
Email: pegsennett@hotmail.com

Randy Sibert

Administrative Coordinator
Phone: 717-576-6115
Email: rsbs@comcast.net

Chuck Van de Water

Construction Coordinator
Phone: 717-578-9950
Email: charlesvandewater@gmail.com

Marc Quade

Construction Coordinator
Phone: 641-330-0361
Email: mquade@fiai.net

For more about Bethel Lutheran:
<http://myweb.cableone.net/lesmbeth>

Tax-Deductible 501(c)(3) Donation:

Joining Hands
118 East Elm Avenue
Hanover, PA 17331

Joining Hands to raise \$60,000.00 for the Jan.-March 2009 new construction project

You can help:

- Individual and Foundation contributions.
- Rotary Club donations—District Simplified Grant match available
- Church fund raiser e.g. a special collection or a yard sale.