

Weekend Warriors

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006

UCBR Weekend Warriors Jim Casper, Mike Hebert, Travis Owen and his friend Joe, David Earle, Phil Stouffer and Marie Flowers traveled to New Orleans to work. In the morning, David and Phil worked with Reese Brewer installing, taping and floating drywall at Reese's house. Travis, Joe and Marie added a second coat of paint on Nadine Henson's new wooden fence. Nadene is a friend of UCBR member Janetta Kriel. Jim and Mike boarded up Rita Hubbard's house, which the UCBR Senior Youth mucked out in July and which we gutted in September. In the afternoon, Travis, Joe, Phil, David and Jim continued working at Reese's house. A total of about 68 hours of labor were donated, excluding drive time and lunch break.

Since Nov. 2005, about 46 UCBR members and friends, and six UUs either from out of town or from FUUNO and CCUU have worked at about 20 locations in the Greater New Orleans area, Slidell and Algiers, and at the seven FEMA trailer parks in Baton Rouge, donating a total of 846 hours of labor excluding drive time and lunch.

Total of all hours donated including drive time and lunch break is on the order of 1,204. We broke 1,000 hours in October 2006.

I received a letter addressed to "Mike Hebert and the Weekend Warriors" this week, from Rita Hubbard, a FUUNO member whose home in Gentilly (New Orleans) was flooded. She is now living in Houston, Texas. The Senior Youth mucked out her house in July 2006 and the UCBR WWs gutted her house, under Emily Danielson's leadership, in September 2006. Jim and Mike boarded up her house in December, 2006.

She wrote:

“Thank you for helping me gut and secure my house in New Orleans. This generous act of kindness has been one of the things that has helped me move forward with both the physical and emotional recovery from this catastrophic event. None of the words I write can adequately express my appreciation for your most generous acts; you have ‘touched’ so many — thank you, again.”

She enclosed a generous donation, asking, “Please use this donation to further your work.”

— Michael J. Hebert