

Empowering change for a new New Orleans



Nearly 700 volunteers from around the nation and the world have devoted over 7000 volunteer hours to gut more than 600 homes – providing \$3.3 million in services to homeowners in need.



Four Homecoming Centers support the strong resurgence of low-moderate income neighborhoods: Direct services stabilize lives; Training empowers leadership; Community Organizing fights for equitable economic redevelopment and the just delivery of recovery resources.

Daily service to one another is transforming our culture and bringing to birth a new spirit of common cause.



Our Church helped recruit 4800 citizens for Community Congress II and III: 64% African-American, 25% with incomes less than \$20,000.

In these historic meetings the people envisioned a new New Orleans that would...

“Create affordable homeownership opportunities”

The Jericho Road Housing Initiative of the Episcopal Diocese is building beautiful affordable homes for low-moderate income families in blighted Central City. 52 lots have been preliminarily awarded to the church by the city to be built in 2007.

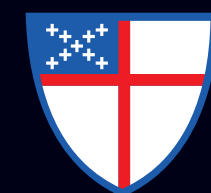


“Improve schools across the board”

The Homecoming Center at St. Luke’s supports student leaders fighting for improved education and runs learning workshops for young people with special life challenges. Here, members of the Fyre Youth Squad accompanied by the church’s community organizer make abysmal conditions known at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge.



It begins with a heart full of love and a soul full of grace... Service gathers community... Compassion becomes contagious... It can even change a city... When we become the change.



The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

Nearly 20,000 fed; 50,000 supplied; and over 5,000 treated by volunteer doctors and nurses through our mobile unit partnerships. The kindness of these teams is building solidarity among all people and connecting us one to another.



Since the flood Bishop Charles Jenkins has consistently called for “a transformation of values” in our culture. Here the bishop marches with Central City pastors to mourn the violent deaths of New Orleans citizens and the conditions causing these tragedies.



Our organizing efforts helped gather 6000 citizens from all neighborhoods to join the March for Peace on Thursday, January 18, 2007.

“Create living-wage jobs, especially for young people”

The Episcopal Diocese recognizes the connection between inadequate education, lack of economic opportunity and crime. Our work in two of New Orleans’ most challenged neighborhoods is deliberately holistic in its approach and particularly seeks to reach “at-risk” youth with opportunities for educational and economic advancement.





August 29, 2005:

Hurricane Katrina strikes New Orleans.

Soon afterward, Hurricane Rita makes landfall in south central Louisiana and delivers more rain and wind to the city.

September 8, 2005:

Office of Disaster Response for the Diocese of Louisiana established.

January 2006:

Bishop Jenkins leads a three-day visioning retreat with Church leaders at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York and emerges with three primary areas of focus for mission: Resident-led affordable housing development in low-moderate income neighborhoods; Quality public education for all children in the city of New Orleans; Inclusive citizen processes for planning the new New Orleans.

February 2006:

Drawing on King's image of the call to social transformation, the Diocese forms a non-profit housing development corporation: The Jericho Road Housing Initiative. Episcopal Relief and Development provides an additional \$2.2 million grant for the development of affordable homeownership in Central City.

April 2006:

The Episcopal Diocese opens its first Homecoming Center with 5 case managers in La Place, Louisiana.

May 2006:

The Episcopal Diocese assists AmericaSpeaks in obtaining the contract and funding to conduct a five-city 21st century electronic town hall meeting that affords displaced residents in Diaspora the opportunity to help determine the city-wide Unified New Orleans Plan.

September 2006:

The Homecoming Centers at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mid-City and at St. Paul's in Lakeview open to empower residents for the recovery of their communities.

October 2006:

Residents meet at the Homecoming Center at St. Luke's and choose to forge a partnership with John McDonogh High School. Organizing meetings, conflict resolution classes for students, and donations from partnering congregations around the country begin to transform a school with 800 students, 11 teachers, 26 security guards, and 1 counselor.

December 2006:

More than 2,500 New Orleans residents in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Dallas, Houston, and Atlanta gather for Community Congress II, a large scale interactive assembly linked by satellite technology to determine the city's most important goals for change. The Episcopal Diocese provides community organizing for recruitment of participants, volunteers, table facilitators and "theme team" analysts. 64% of participants are African American, 40% are still displaced in cities other than New Orleans, and 25% earn less than \$20,000 a year.

February 2007:

The fourth Diocesan Homecoming Center "The Urban Ministry Center" opens to empower residents of Central City in the economic recovery and redevelopment of their neighborhood.

Jericho Road establishes offices in the center and works closely with case management and community organizers co-housed in the facility to empower holistic change.

There is much more to be done ... Be a disciple. Be a citizen. Help us build the new New Orleans.

Equip a homecoming center. Sponsor a block club. Empower a youth. Support a school. Adopt a classroom. Be an activist. Sponsor a new home. Volunteer your time. Give. To donate time or resources through the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, contact us today.

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or donate online at www.edola.org

January 16, 2006:

On Martin Luther King Day '06, the Bishop reads the following passage from Dr. Martin Luther King's speech Beyond Vietnam and calls the staff to a mission of direct assistance and social transformation of values.

"A true revolution of values will soon call us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand, we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside but that will only be an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly robbed and beaten as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

December 2005:

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana receives a \$3.2 million grant from Episcopal Relief and Development, the largest grant for disaster recovery ministry in the history of the Episcopal Church.

March 2006:

Bishop Jenkins reaches out to the pastors of Central City and a Bible study group of Christian leaders is formed in one of New Orleans' most challenged neighborhoods.

June 2006:

Jericho Road is preliminarily awarded 52 adjudicated properties to begin developing affordable homes.

July 2006:

Jericho Road purchases five additional Central City lots.

August 2006:

The first Jericho Road home is erected in Central City.



November 2006:

Episcopal Church representatives join with the Downtown Neighborhood Improvement Association and other educational reform activists to plan a "Take It To The Top" presentation by Fyre Youth Squad leaders to the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the governor's Chief-of-Staff.

January 2007:

Bishop Jenkins joins Central City pastors and neighborhood leaders in a "March for Peace" to City Hall.

6000 residents gather at City Hall to air their grievances to elected leaders.

January 22, 2007:

91% of participants at the second interactive Community Congress planning assembly "strongly endorse" the following top priorities for the new New Orleans: Category 5 levees; Improved school quality – better paid teachers, improved administration and facilities; Health Care – utilize mobile units and temporary sites to ensure equal access; Create homeownership opportunities for low-income and public housing residents.

"We reject any option that would concentrate poverty."

Affordable Housing (\$25,000)
Give a forgivable "soft second" mortgage and make a Jericho Home affordable to a family living on less than 80% of the area median income.

Organizing (\$20,000)
Fund an organizer for a year to empower citizens to fight for equity and self-determination in the recovery of their neighborhood.

Just Return (\$12,000)
Equip a Homecoming Center with computers, internet access, copiers, and phones to resource residents with the basic tools they need to claim benefits, find temporary housing, prepare resumes, find furniture – all the resources necessary to reconstruct fractured lives

Youth Development (\$8,000)
Fund a "Personal Development Plan" including tutoring, leadership training, counseling, and educational trips for an inner city youth over the course of one year.

Education (\$5,000)
Help support quality education by giving a bonus to an outstanding public school teacher earning less than \$30,000 a year.



The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

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