

Why We're Here...

Hurricane Katrina flooded St Bernard Parish with a tidal surge up to 30 ft high on August 29, 2005. In many cases homes and businesses were covered up to the rooftops. The result? Nearly 100% of homes and businesses were severely damaged or completely destroyed.



Recovery from this unprecedented destruction is a slow and painful process. Five years after the storm, the Parish population is only about half of what it was before the storm. Many residents who have returned to St Bernard are still struggling to rebuild



their homes because the average Road Home payment was only about half of the total replacement cost. And then came more bad news - some of the

rebuilt houses in St Bernard are contaminated with health-threatening Chinese sheetrock.

Today St Bernard residents face a new threat, as the Gulf Oil Spill spreads into the waters that they have fished for generations, threatening their livelihoods. The Community Center of St Bernard is actively working to assist families struggling to rebuild their lives in St Bernard Parish in the face of these overwhelming obstacles. Together with partner agencies from across the greater New Orleans area, we provide residents with "one stop" local access to essential services. The people of St Bernard continue to face many challenges, but we are one place where they can come for help and answers.

GUIDELINES

We hope that you enjoy your time at the Community Center of St Bernard. Here are some suggestions to help you get the most out of your volunteer experience:

- Always be respectful and courteous to Community Center clients.
- If you are not sure of the how to do the task you were assigned, please ask for help — an quick explanation now can save lots of time wasted re-doing a job later!
- Report any potential health and safety regulations to Community Center staff immediately.
- Whenever possible, take the time to meet and talk with local residents. Many of them have truly incredible and inspiring stories to tell, and they'll be happy to share them with you.
- Please respect the privacy of Community Center clients. Do not photograph or film them, or mention them by name on a website, blog or other public publication unless you have their permission first.
- If you do upload a video, post some photos, write a newsletter or a blog, please send us a copy or a link. We're always looking for items to put on our newspaper, add to our YouTube video favorites, and mention in our newsletter to increase awareness of St Bernard Parish and the ongoing effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the residents here.
- Whenever referring to us, please note that we are the Community Center of St Bernard, not the St Bernard Community Center.
- Remember to visit our website www.ccstb.org to learn more about our services and programs, view our calendar of events, find links to videos, blogs and news articles, subscribe to our newsletter and get information about free ways you can continue to support us even after you've returned home.

And thank you once again for the generous gift of your time and hands-on assistance here in "da Parish" — it is very much appreciated!!



Community Center of St Bernard

VOLUNTEER GUIDE

Volunteers are a very important part of the team at the Community Center. In fact, we couldn't continue to provide essential services to St. Bernard residents without the ongoing hands-on support of volunteers of all ages from around the country and beyond!

During 2010, over 400 wonderful people put in an amazing 3,283 hours here, helping with the food pany and clothing bank, doing cleaning and office chores, and lending a caring ear to residents who just needed someone to talk to. So to everyone who's so generously given their time to come and personally help at the Community Center, we'd like to say THANK YOU so much for being here and making a real difference in the lives of the hurricane survivors of St Bernard Parish!



United Way Partner Agency

1111 LeBeau St
Arabi LA 70032

504-281-2512 phone
916-675-7827 fax
www.ccstb.org
info@ccstb.org

FREE SERVICES WE OFFER TO THE COMMUNITY

- Internet Computers (Mon-Fri 10AM-5PM)
- Fax Send & Receive (Mon-Fri 10AM-5PM)
- Mustard Seed Clothing Bank (M, Tu, Th 10AM-3PM)
- Mustard Seed Food Pantry—by appointment on M, Tu & Th 11AM –3PM
- Legal Aid (Tuesday 10AM-Noon)
- Acupuncture (Tuesday Noon—2 PM)
- ACCION Small Business Loans (Tuesday 10 AM—Noon)
- Food Stamp Assistance (Tues / Thurs 10AM-Noon)
- Council on Aging Senior Employment Service (Tues /Thurs 10 AM—2 PM)
- Road Home By Appointment Phone 225-219-9600
- Bingo Nights (Tuesday 5:30 PM)
- Medical Assistance (Thursday 10AM –1PM)
- Catholic Charities Case Management (Mon & Thurs 10 AM—4 PM)
- Red Cross Disaster Preparedness (Thursday 10AM-Noon)
- Medicaid Enrollment (Monday 10 AM—4 PM)
- Families Helping Families (Thurs 10AM—Noon)



HOW YOU CAN HELP



“Food For Seniors” Program

On the 3rd Friday of every month we need up to 6 volunteers to assist with the USDA "Food for Seniors" commodities distribution which provides a box of food (protein, dairy, fruits, vegetables) to low-income senior citizens. These boxes can weigh as much as 40 lbs, so volunteers should be comfortable with lifting moderately heavy items. The "Food for Seniors" distribution runs from 10 AM to 4 PM, but volunteers do not need to stay for the entire event. Anyone who wants to help with this event should phone 504.281.2512 to register.

Mustard Seed Distribution Food Pantry & Clothing Bank

The Mustard Seed Distribution program provides free food, household supplies and hygiene products to low-income residents. The program operates Mon, Tues & Thurs from 11AM – 3PM. We need volunteers to stock shelves, help residents make their food selection and go through our check-out, and carry the food out to their vehicles. Help in the Clothing Bank is also needed Mon, Tues and Thurs from 10AM-3PM.

Thanksgiving 2011

Up to 5 volunteers are needed the week before Thanksgiving to help pick up donated food from local schools and businesses, and to scan the donations into our food pantry inventory.

Holiday Celebration and Toy Giveaway



This will be held on December 18, 2011. We need volunteers of all ages to do toy drives, sort presents by age, wrap presents, set up tables and decorations, guide children to the appropriate presents for their age during the giveaway, help prepare and serve refreshments, and clean up.

Thank you once again for your kindness and generosity!

