

How to keep in touch with Rebuilding Together New Orleans



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<http://www.rtno.org>



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• Volunteer with RTNO:
volunteer@rtno.org



Volunteer Orientation Packet

Dear Volunteer:

Thank you for choosing to volunteer with Rebuilding Together New Orleans! We are excited about the commitment people like you have demonstrated on behalf of our city's recovery. We have made great strides since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck and the levees breached in 2005, but we have a long way to go before every low-income homeowner in New Orleans is back in a safer home.

As a volunteer with RTNO, you will be a part of a national movement to enable homeowners to live in warmth, safety and independence. RTNO currently works with homeowners in nine target neighborhoods: Hollygrove, Broadmoor, Mid-City, Gentilly, Tremé, St. Roch, McClendonville, Algiers Riverview, and Lower 9 neighborhoods.

This informational guide is intended to help volunteers get to know RTNO before you arrive. We want to ensure that you have the best volunteer experience possible so we have included additional information about our program, who we serve, and our city-wide impact. We have also included information to help you enjoy your stay and get the most out of your volunteer experience.

On behalf of our staff, homeowners, and the city of New Orleans, thanks once again for your service!

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Rebuilding Together Facts

Rebuilding Together New Orleans (RTNO) is a local affiliate of a national nonprofit organization – Rebuilding Together – which has restored and revitalized more than 100,000 homes over the past 22 years. Utilizing both professional services and volunteer labor, Rebuilding Together allows low-income families in communities across the country to live in warmth, safety, and dignity.

RTNO believes that by reinvesting in and restoring the existing housing stock of the city, we can bring homeowners displaced by Hurricane Katrina back to their former homes, as well as provide a model for restoring and preserving New Orleans' historic neighborhoods. RTNO's home rehabilitation program targets the populations most affected by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans: the urban poor. Families that return to their homes in New Orleans – rather than live in exile or in a trailer – sustain a constant, stable, healthy living environment while building their equity and regaining financial independence.

Impact since Hurricane Katrina:

RTNO has completed 314 projects to assist low-income families in returning to their storm-damaged homes with 32 projects in progress. 97% of our homeowners are minorities with an average income of \$14,500. More than 18,000 volunteers from around the country have come to New Orleans to work on RTNO projects providing over 350,000 labor hours worth \$6.5 million in market value. With continued support and funding, Rebuilding Together New Orleans can continue to improve the quality of life for low-income homeowners and revitalize New Orleans' neighborhoods.



There are certain well-known spots popular among out-of-towners, but we at RTNO want to introduce you to some of OUR favorite hangout spots in the city to give you a more local experience!



ROYAL BLEND

Coffee shop with a great courtyard and friendly staff
621 Royal St (French Quarter)

FINN McCOOL'S

Voted Best Bartender and Best Neighborhood Bar since reopening in 2006
3701 Banks St (Mid-City)



COMMUNITY COFFEE

Local coffee company. Get real chicory coffee and free WiFi
Many locations throughout the city

OAK STREET and MAGAZINE STREET

Both streets have great shops, restaurants and cafes. Perfect for a night out!

FRENCHMEN STREET

The place to go for live music near the Quarter.
Frenchmen St between Royal and Decatur (Marigny)



AUDUBON PARK, CITY PARK and JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL PARK

Relax and experience the beauty of the New Orleans outside the city life!

MUST SEE MUSEUMS

Louisiana State Museum: Katrina Exhibit
Tuesdays-Sundays 10am-4:30, \$6 for Adults
751 Chartres Street, New Orleans - (504) 568-6968

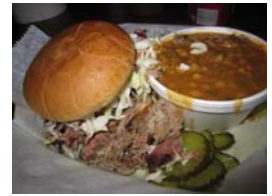
National WWII Museum

Open 7 days a week, 9am-5pm, \$19 for Adults
945 Magazine Street, New Orleans - (504) 528-1944

NIGHT LIFE

COOP'S PLACE

Famous for their snarky bartenders and rabbit and sausage jambalaya
1109 Decatur St (French Quarter)



PAPA JOES BAR-B-QUE

BBQ Chicken, Red Beans and Rice,
Potato Salad

635 Canal St. 504.458.3265

**NOLA
GROCERY**

Po'boys

351 Andrew
Higgins Dr
504.302.9928

**HONEY BAKED
HAMS**

Ham, turkey,
and vegetarian sandwiches. Boxed
lunches include sandwich, chips, and
cookie (delivery to site available for no
extra charge)

3211 N Causeway Blvd # A, Metairie, LA
70002
504.833.2933

UNITED CAB

Small Groups. Last minute
transportation needs
1634 Euterpe St.
(504) 522-9771
www.unitedcabs.com

**TRANSPORTATION****ENTERPRISE**

Small to medium sized groups
1939 Canal St
New Orleans, LA
(504) 522-7900
www.enterprise.com

MACHU PICCHU TOURS

Medium to large sized groups
442 Jackson Ave.
New Orleans, LA
(504) 561-9050
www.machupicchutours.com

FOOD**LOUISIANA PRODUCTS**

Red Beans & Rice, Sandwiches,
Fried Chicken

620 Julia St.
504.529.1666

THE JOINT

Pulled pork &
Mac 'n Cheese

801 Poland Ave
(Bywater)

**NON-PROFIT CAFÉ
RECONCILE**

Southern and Soul Food
1631 Oretha Castle Haley
Blvd
504.568.1157

**A Typical Volunteer Day**

Orientation: Our typical work week is Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:30pm with clean-up beginning around 3:45 pm. Your first workday will begin with a safety orientation as well as a homeowner orientation. This will allow volunteers to become better acquainted with the home and family they are assigned to.

The type of work performed by volunteers varies widely according to the scope of work for the house. The jobs may consist of interior or exterior painting, laying flooring, light carpentry and landscaping, to name a few. Volunteers do not need to be skilled in these tasks. Volunteers with specific skill sets can inform RTNO via our volunteer waiver and we will try to match up skills with particular projects.

Safety: Our volunteers' safety is our top priority. An AmeriCorps House Captain trained in construction and safe building practices will conduct a safety orientation for you and your group upon your arrival at the worksite. Any safety equipment needed will be provided for you on site. Your House Captain will also show volunteers how to use any tools necessary to complete the job. If you or a member of your group doesn't feel comfortable using certain tools, climbing on ladders, etc, let you House Captain know. You will never be asked to perform a task that makes you uncomfortable.

In order to better protect our volunteers, we suggest certain clothing choices. Footwear needs to be sturdy with closed-toes and closed-heels. Boots or sneakers are both considered appropriate footwear, however work boots are preferable. You are not required to wear long pants, but it is highly recommended. Please prepare for the weather by checking the forecast before you arrive at the work site. Sunglasses, hats, and sunscreen are also recommended.

Items Provided: Any tool or piece of safety equipment that is needed on site is provided by Rebuilding Together New Orleans. You will not need to bring anything for the actual build.

Each site has a hospitality kit that includes bug spray, sunscreen, and a first aid kit. We also provide water, ice and clean port-o-lets for use by our volunteers. Each volunteer will also receive a t-shirt with their volunteer fee.

Rebuilding Together does not provide food, lodging, or transportation. We suggest that volunteer groups plan ahead to purchase their own meals for lunch near the worksite or to bring a sack lunch. No coolers are provided on site. In the next few pages you will find several suggestions for lodging, transportation, and food for volunteers.

HOUSING OPTIONS

ANNUNCIATION MISSION

3 meals per day Monday-Friday
Breakfast and lunch on Saturday
Wi-fi, TV, bedding, meeting space
Capacity: up to 84

Erin Saucier
504.895.8697 ext. 103
4505 S. Claiborne Ave
www.annunciationmission.org

BEST WESTERN FRENCH QUARTER
CLARION GRAND BOUTIQUE
BEST WESTERN PLUS LANDMARK
Special rates for RTNO volunteers

MUST contact Gina Wilks
for special rates
504.522.8531
gina_wilks@acihotels.com

THE MISSION HOUSE
Meals provided at higher cost, private house, great for groups, backyard, common area, access to

Dar Rinehardt
504.309.0377
3313 Marietta
Chalmette, LA



ST. JUDE REBUILDS

3 meals daily, Monday-Saturday
Common area, security provided,
access to internet and cable TV
Capacity: up to 150

Andrew Mistry
504.432.7261
400 N. Rampart

CENTRAL ST. MATTHEW UCC

Bunkrooms, lounge, kitchen,
computer, washer and dryer
Capacity: up to 20

Senior Pastor Rev. Chris Mereschuk
504.861.8196
1333 S. Carrollton Ave
www.centralstmatthewucc.com

INDIA HOUSE HOSTEL

Volunteers have access to kitchen, Bike rentals, pool, common area with TV and wireless internet
Capacity: up to 100

Contact: 504.821.1904
504.324.4365
123 S. Lopez Street

HANDS ON

Food provided, volunteers use kitchen to cook, private house, living room, full kitchen, great porch, access to wireless internet

Laura Crosby
504.483.7041
3321 Banks Street



MARQUETTE HOUSE

Volunteers have access to kitchen, outdoor space, kitchen supplies provided, linens provided, wireless internet access
Capacity: up to 150

Steve Cross
504.523.3014
2249 Carondelet Street

NEW ORLEANS REBIRTH CENTER

Volunteers have access to kitchen to cook, common area, linens

Quo Vadis Breaux
504.866.4170
2903 Jefferson Ave

KATRINA CORPS

3 meals daily, common area for dining and recreation, laundry, access to wireless internet

Ray Thomas
313.477.2879
3818 Dauphine Street

UNITED SAINTS RECOVERY PROJECT

3 meals a day Monday through Friday, vegetarian option at each meal, free Wi-Fi, meeting space, outdoor area with a fire pit, basketball hoop and volleyball net
Capacity: up to 85

504-895-2922 Ext. 108
2309 Dryades

CAMP RESTORE

3 meals daily, common areas, RV parking, computer and wireless internet access, fridge and microwave available
Capacity: up to 150

Rava Coil
504.242.2636
9301 Chef Menteur

