



ACORN Home Clean-out Demonstration Program



Taking Action to Rebuild New Orleans

In December, ACORN launched the ***Home Clean-out Demonstration***

Program — with the goal of preserving and rebuilding thousands of homes in low-income neighborhoods, while we develop a comprehensive rebuilding plan. Working in four target neighborhoods – the Lower 9th Ward, Gentilly, Hollygrove/Upper Carrollton, and New Orleans East – the Clean-out Program’s professional workers, many of them displaced New Orleans residents, are cleaning and stabilizing homes:

- removing debris and storing salvageable personal belongings;
- ripping out drywall and sanitizing structures to remove and prevent future mold growth;
- and tarping roofs to prevent further water damage and deterioration

The goal for the first phase of the Clean-out Demonstration Program is to clean 1,000 homes in the first quarter of 2006. With the assistance of visiting students and other volunteers, ACORN Services work crews are completing 3-5 houses per day – a total of 575 homes as of early January. As the first large-scale renovation plan in lower income neighborhoods, this initial step of preservation not only has a practical impact, it also sends a message to policymakers that the people of New Orleans are coming home to rebuild. In cities around the country, ACORN Katrina Survivors Association organizers are telling displaced residents about the program and obtaining clearance so ACORN Services work crews can begin work on the residents’ homes.



The Home Clean-out Demonstration project is part of ACORN’s comprehensive program for rebuilding New Orleans. We are continuing to organize the ACORN Katrina Survivors Association, the nation’s largest organization of displaced former New Orleans residents; fighting to stop the bulldozing of our neighborhoods; and pressing public officials for an inclusive rebuilding plan – one that enables families to return home to affordable housing, living wage jobs, and good schools.



Scott Hagy

ACORN Services Project Director Scott Hagy is a licensed contractor in Louisiana and the City of New Orleans. An industrial electrician by trade, Hagy has overseen the operation of

industrial bottling plants in the U.S. and abroad. He also has extensive experience in renovating older houses in the New Orleans area. His background in organizing crews and training new workers to do specialized jobs has prepared him to hire and teach local crews to properly gut and clean storm-damaged houses.

What's Next for ACORN Rebuilding



While ACORN Services crews are still in the process of cleaning and stabilizing homes, we are also seeking to partner with financial and nonprofit organizations to acquire salvageable properties for renovation and plots where new single family and

rental units can be built. These renovated and newly- built houses will be kept affordable for low and moderate income homebuyers. This phase of ACORN's rebuilding program will also include the permanent renovation of homes that are being preserved now.



Tax deductible donations can be sent to: ACORN Institute - Hurricane Recovery and Rebuilding Fund, 739 8th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Or donate online at www.acorn.org.

Our Office is Back!



ACORN has returned full operations to our 1024 Elysian Fields Ave. building, damaged during Hurricane Katrina. The newly restored New Orleans office also serves as headquarters for ACORN Services.

Volunteers Nationwide Come to Rebuild New Orleans!

As part of our rebuilding plan, ACORN is also recruiting students and other volunteers to help rebuild New Orleans. Already 200 volunteers have committed to volunteer in January, and 500 more are coming in March. For more information or to schedule a volunteer group:

Contact Diana Winingder at rebuild@acorn.org or (713) 875-6069.



ACORN member Sandra Merritt stands with a group of law students from the Student Hurricane Network, who helped clean and stabilize her home.