

Linkages

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Faith, Hope and Social Change: One Year After Katrina and Rita

By Penny Fujiko Willgerodt

Editor's Note: *In the aftermath of Katrina, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors swung into action. We did our best to share what we knew with over 3,000 donors, colleagues and wealth managers. We immediately issued a set of recommendations for donors wishing to contribute to relief efforts and included local community foundations such as the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and institutions such as Southern Mutual Help Association. Our colleague, Penny Fujiko Willgerodt, and some fellow grantmakers also started organizing a collaborative philanthropic response that would reach some of the most neglected communities along the Gulf Coast. We asked Penny to reflect on her work in the Gulf Coast region. This is her story.*

Could it be that Hurricane Katrina is the epiphany that could take our lives individually and collectively toward a new future? - one that ultimately leaves the planet a better place?

--Margaret Saizan on Beyond Katrina: The Voice of Hurricane Disaster & Recovery
(http://www.hurricane-katrina.org/publishers_views/index.html)

As the anniversaries of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita approach, I recall the profound rage that welled up within me as I watched the horrific images on television and heard the haunting accounts that still remain with me on public radio stations WNYC and WBAI. I was glued to the outpouring of emails from my friend the musicologist and cultural historian Ned Sublette¹ who forwarded alerts, reports and reflections from the likes of well-known figures like Bill Quigley² as well as unknown evacuees. I looked at www.nola.com, *The Times-Picayune* on-line. I spoke with my daughter, my friends and colleagues. I was frustrated, angry and needed outlets to express those feelings. The dismay and the pain of bearing witness to so much suffering by our brothers and sisters demanded a response—both personal and professional. Directing donors and funders to effective relief agencies and efforts was important but not enough. I knew that while disaster

relief would attract the largest sums of money, longterm recovery wherein issues of equity, racism and justice could be addressed would be the place where philanthropy could truly make a difference. It made a lot of sense to me to help design and create this kind of philanthropic response, and what has resulted is the Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health (the “Gulf Coast Fund”), a collaborative, pooled fund at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

New Orleans may be the epicenter of the greatest disaster in the history of the United States, but thousands of rural and urban communities in the four states bordering the Gulf Coast—Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama—also were, and remain, deeply affected. Towns and cities in the states of Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida experienced the aftermath as places of refuge from the storms and flooding. Over one million people in the region became homeless after Katrina landed in Buras, Louisiana on August 29th, and then Rita on September 24th hitting the Louisiana/Texas border added to the crisis. Most of the approximately 200,000 residents of New Orleans who continue to live in exile—still prevented from returning home—are Black and poor. A lot of Katrina and Rita’s story is about race and class.

The storms were natural disasters, but what happened as a result was unnatural: the fault of human neglect, error and greed.

Unfortunately, the horrors continue. According to a report in May 2006 in *The Times-Picayune*, the State of Louisiana’s official death toll for Katrina is 1,577 deaths—including folks who couldn’t get out because they were poor, or too old and frail, or too sick, and evacuees for whom the post-trauma stress became too much to bear.³ An estimated 987 people are still miss-

ing. And on August 1, the skeletal remains of yet another person were discovered in a wrecked house in New Orleans East after a man reported that he believed his mother was still in her house.⁴

The storms were natural disasters, yes, but what happened as a result was unnatural: the fault of human neglect, error and greed. Shameful and massive governmental and institutional failures were reflections of pre-existing conditions of rampant poverty and deep-seated institutional racism. The truth of the underside of America was finally exposed for the entire world to see, and a harsh wake-up call resounded.

There is now a window of opportunity to address the injustices of the past, to restore the ecological health, and to create truly sustainable solutions for employment, housing, energy needs, education and health. I may be idealistic to think that this is possible, but history has shown time and time again that the gift of hope is just as important as our monetary contributions in making change. A few weeks ago in July, I saw the 1996 film by Lee Lew Lee “All Power to the People!” when it screened at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. This film about the civil rights movement reminded me that the events of last September in the Deep South are an inheritance of slavery but more important, what happened subsequently provides a beacon of hope to all Americans.

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All over our nation, people young and old, those connected to the South and those who knew nothing of the South, quickly mobilized to provide relief and traveled down to volunteer. Still today, individuals, church groups and schools are organizing to provide assistance, support “right of return” efforts, and help to rebuild. They are joining the “all-hands-on deck” effort, and as a result, are enjoying an education of a lifetime. Their participation in the reconstruction effort can be seen as the legacy of the civil rights movement and other struggles for equality, peace and a healthy, safe environment.

Combined with the monetary assistance, this surge of volunteerism—these acts of hope and love—are providing the much needed spiritual gift of renewal.

It started with a conference call

The Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health (the “Gulf Coast Fund”) is a collaborative, pooled fund created in September 2005 as a result of an emergency conference call organized by Kathy Sessions, Coordinator of the Health & Environmental Funders Network (HEFN). From the outset, funders who were on that initial call recognized that time would be required to recover from this disaster. They expressed clear understanding that while immediate direct relief was necessary, philanthropy’s appropriate response should be to provide long-term, more sustainable support for rebuilding. Several HEFN members already had been funding environmental health and justice issues related to the petrochemical industry based in the Gulf Coast pre-Katrina. Many were very concerned about the public health implications posed by the storm surge and the floodwaters spreading contamination from Superfund sites and from places along “Cancer Alley.”⁵

Funders were also anxious because of the historic lack of governmental oversight. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, an agency not known for rigorous enforcement anyway, was in no shape to conduct any testing. The need for independent sampling and testing for environmental contamination was discussed, and funding resulted to hire chemist and community activist Wilma Subra, a recipient of the MacArthur “genius” award, to conduct testing throughout the region.⁶

Funders on the call also recognized that the issues arising from Katrina, and later Rita, were complex and, with new information flying back and forth on a daily basis, overwhelming. Each grantmaker and donor did not have enough discretionary funds or resources to address this individually. An appropriate philanthropic response would have to be coordinated and collaborative. Given the myriad of interconnected environmental, health, social, economic and physical infrastructure issues, this catastrophe reflected so many of the challenges funders seek to address in their philanthropy. We knew we had to connect with our other “affinity group” colleagues.

The suggestion that financial and intellectual resources be pooled held great appeal, and it was at that time that I volunteered the charitable giving vehicle at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors as a possible home for any funds. Sarah Hansen, former executive director of Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) offered to provide EGA's website as a central information clearing-house as well as time on the September 2005 EGA annual retreat agenda. On September 12th, Marni Rosen, Executive Director of the Jenifer Altman Foundation, Kathy, Sarah and I posted a letter "First Steps After Katrina" to our colleagues offering different options for response, action and sharing of information.⁷

Along with colleagues including Michelle DePass (Ford Foundation), Larry Shapiro (Rockefeller Family Fund), Marni, Sarah and Kathy, I helped to organize the ad-hoc session on September 27th at the EGA retreat where Monique Harden, internationally recognized human rights attorney and environmental justice activist, who was in attendance as a workshop panelist, gave moving testimony about her experience, and the short-term and long-term needs of communities. At that time, the Gulf Coast Fund was formally announced and funders began to make initial commitments. Since that time, the Gulf Coast Fund has raised \$755,000 from a diverse range of donors, including major independent private foundations, family foundations and individual donors (see text box).

In November 2005, I was generously subsidized by Rockefeller family members Julie Robbins, Peter O'Neill and Dr. Lucy Waletzky to join Marni Rosen on a remarkable, well-organized four-day trip called the "Gulf Coast Solidarity & Justice Tour." Organized by the Southwest Workers Union in partnership with the Louisiana Environmental Action Network and others, the purpose of the trip was "movement building, unconditional solidarity with people in the Gulf Coast, and to make real connections with local people and local struggles to make sure this never happens again."⁸

Experienced grassroots organizers from all over the country gathered in Jackson, Mississippi where we were briefed by relief workers and long-time activists from the Gulf Coast region in the offices of Southern Echo⁹, a civil rights organization; Marni and I were the only two

Funders invited to join the tour. From there, we traveled to New Orleans where we visited Common Ground's headquarters in Algiers, went to United Houma Nation (based in the lower bayou region of Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes) and stayed at the Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church in Gulfport, Mississippi. We participated in work brigades, heard political analysis, bore witness and provided checks to each grassroots group we visited. In addition to the shock of seeing the extent of the physical devastation, hearing the horrific stories of mistreatment, human rights abuses and concerns about the re-building process was deeply affecting. It was clear that reconstruction was going to be a very long-term process.

Funders organized by HEFN and EGA back in September recognized that this human and environmental disaster presented an unprecedented opportunity for the Gulf Coast to rebuild and recover in a way that could model greater democracy, improved governance, restored wetlands and coastlines, state-of-the-art urban planning, sustainable green rebuilding, regional energy-efficient transportation, and improved non-profit infrastructures for social services, health and education.

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Post hurricane Rita, it was clear that the entire region was devastated, and the Gulf Coast Fund's potential role to address the Gulf Coast *as a region* became important. This, in addition to funders' desires to address the massive institutional failure on part of the government as well as major relief agencies, led to the Fund's design to bring people affected by the storms into the very infrastructure of the philanthropic response. The notion that people affected by the problem could be empowered to be part of the philanthropy solution has remained central to its operations and priorities.

The Gulf Coast Fund's core is an Advisory Group of 23 leading policy advocates, community activists and grassroots organizers from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama representing a broad swath of constituencies, geographies and issues (see last page). From the beginning, the plan was to have these advisors play a central role in informing the Fund's grantmaking policies and priorities, and to assist in directing the Fund's resources. It was critical that this group be assembled before any grantmaking could occur from the Gulf Coast Fund.

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In order to honor this commitment to a community-led process, only two grants were made prior to the Advisory Group's formation. In late November, thanks to The Mitchell Kapor Foundation, a grant was made to Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles to support a staffer to work with the People's Hurricane Relief Fund on environmental health and contamination issues. In December, in recognition that residents would be returning to New Orleans and surrounding areas over the holidays, the Louisiana Environmental Action Network received a grant to purchase 3,500 sets of protective gear including full body suits, masks, boots and gloves to be distributed to individuals through a network of community organizations in south Louisiana, including ACORN, Common Ground Relief, People's Hurricane Relief Fund, the Houma Nation and others.

In January 2006, I took another trip to Louisiana (New Orleans and Baton Rouge) and Mississippi (Waveland, North Gulfport, Turkey Creek and Jackson) in order to conduct further research and meet and interview additional candidates for the Fund's Advisory Group. On that whirlwind trip, I spoke with approximately 40 people over a three and a half day period. In addition to introducing the Fund, testing the Gulf Coast Fund's draft RFP objectives and goals, and presenting the roles and responsibilities of Advisory Group membership, I shared

and explained a draft Conflict of Interest Policy Statement. (The Fund is very committed to a transparent process.)

In February, the 23-member Advisory Group was finalized. In order to formally launch the Fund, \$10,000 grants were awarded to organizations represented or designated by Advisory Group members in recognition of their outstanding leadership pre- and post-Katrina and Rita. On Saturday, March 18, 2006, at Ashé Cultural Center in New Orleans, the Advisory Group was convened. Facilitated by MaryKay Penn, a well-known organizational development professional, the meeting's purpose was to finalize the Fund's policies, strategies, values, purpose, grantmaking priorities and process, and specifically the language of the RFP and the application form. This was the Advisory Group's introduction to becoming part of the philanthropic response.

What is at the Heart of the Gulf Coast Fund

The following grantmaking priorities were articulated on March 18th in collaboration with grassroots and community leaders:

- 1) Right of Return and Right to Stay—facilitate, promote and create space for former residents to move back to any of the affected areas, and support their efforts to retain and rebuild communities, including efforts such as restoring levees, rehabilitation and rebuilding of houses, fair elections, restoration of cultural institutions, public schools, public transportation, jobs, mental health services, public health and health care.
- 2) Ecological Health—restore and support coastal wetlands and healthy coastal communities.
- 3) Environmental Justice and Health—monitor and clean up landfills, dumps and other health and environmental hazards; work toward the equitable cleanup of historically and newly contaminated areas; hold polluters accountable for environmental contamination; measure and track environmental contaminants and health impacts; initiate green chemistry projects; and protect right-to-know laws.
- 4) Just and Sustainable Rebuilding—incorporate sustainable solutions such as green and healthy buildings and smart and fair growth into rebuild-

ing, giving all communities the right to return and rebuild; reduce fossil fuel use and production in the Gulf Coast; monitor where private and public sector monies are going and ensure that funds are being effectively drawn down and utilized.

- 5) Workers Rights—protect all workers' health and safety, protect low-wage workers and fight contractor abuses such as non-payment and immigration status-related threats, and promote analysis, advocacy and organizing which empowers both African American and immigrant workers.

In mid-April, the RFP announcing a May 1st application deadline as well as a June 12th application deadline was widely released. The website and an easy on-line application process went live. The Fund maintains a commitment to transparency, ease of process and quick turn-around. The RFP stated that decisions on May 1st applications would be announced May 22nd, and decisions on June 12th applications would be announced in early July, a turn-around time nearly unheard of in the foundation world. Grants would be decided through a panel process, with Advisory Group members serving on grantmaking panels convened by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

By May 10th four different dockets of proposals, which had been fully vetted by Fund staff, for four different grantmaking panels, were sent to Advisory Group members. A team of seven staff at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors stayed late one evening to make sure nearly thirty "board books" were correctly assembled and Fed-Exed. Panel meetings were held via 2-hour conference calls facilitated by MaryKay Penn. Sixteen grants totaling \$200,000 to grassroots groups working in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama were announced on May 22.

In early June, Michelle and I went back to the region to meet with philanthropic leadership at the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation to learn more about their activities, share information and initiate potential partnership opportunities in order to leverage the Fund's resources. The June 12th deadline yielded 63 very strong applications which were again vetted and processed. Five panel calls were held in early July, resulting in 17 grants totaling \$250,000 to groups in all four states (for list of grantees,

see http://rockpa.org/special_programs/gulf-coast-fund/grantees/).

With a grants goal of \$1 million for 2006, the Fund has disbursed to date \$699,200 in 54 grants to organizations working on a wide range of issues in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas. The Gulf Coast Fund is structured as a "special project" of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors' charitable giving vehicle (The Philanthropic Collaborative), which provides all the staffing, management and administrative services. The Fund is assessed at a discounted rate. Staffing for the Fund, in addition to strategy development, fiscal oversight, grantmaking design, due diligence, grants execution and monitoring, are provided as in-kind support and represent Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors' donation as a partner to the Fund.

The Gulf Coast Fund will participate in commemorative events at the storms' anniversaries in Mississippi and Louisiana. A second Advisory Group convening will occur in mid-September and a third round of grants will commence with an October deadline. The Gulf Coast Fund will present workshops in October at the 2006 Environmental Grantmakers Association retreat as well as the Association of Small Foundations' 2006 conference in New Orleans.

The Real Opportunity Starts Now

The Gulf Coast Fund's aim to foster community-driven philanthropy and provide philanthropy skills and leadership development opportunities for Gulf Coast leaders, builds on a nearly thirty-year-old history of progressive, social change philanthropy. Our success is, in part, due to our understanding of what has worked and what hasn't; we are building on lessons learned the hard way from the past.

Even in its short time of existence, the Gulf Coast Fund has laid the foundation for a regional philanthropic infrastructure which is informed and led by respected and experienced community voices. The Fund has concretely increased philanthropy skills and knowledge among organizers on the ground throughout the Gulf Coast, by providing information and experiential opportunities to learn first-hand about the various and creative ways that philan-

thropy can leverage other resources. The Fund also provides a mechanism to keep Gulf Coast issues in the spotlight for the ever increasing number of family foundations and individual donors. Within organized philanthropy, the Fund offers an easy and cost-efficient way that foundations may participate in the rebuilding and transformation effort without creating new program areas or increasing staff expertise.

For all these reasons, as well as a clear message from Advisory Group members, the Gulf Coast Fund is committed to remaining operational for the next several years. At the July 12th New York Regional Association of Grant-makers event on Louisiana post-Katrina, former Council on Foundations President and Ambassador Jim Joseph said that the work “in the Gulf Coast is not just a humanitarian effort...it is a larger struggle for the very soul of our democracy.”

The Gulf Coast Fund is the only regional and community-based philanthropic effort in existence. It is also the only one focused on a multiplicity of cross-cutting, diverse issues and different constituencies, conducting philanthropy through the lens of empowering the grassroots and approaching the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast region in a holistic manner. Finally, it is the only one where those who were at the epicenter of this disaster have been effectively organized to inform and direct the resources of this Fund. The Fund is efficient and well-managed and its operational costs are remarkably lean. I am incredibly proud to be a part of this work. I truly believe there is now a small chance for transformation to occur in our country. The question remains: will we seize this opportunity?

The Gulf Coast Fund has committed to operate under the aegis of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors until 2010 and aims to institutionalize itself at a level where it can facilitate three grantmaking cycles per year.

Penny Fujiko Willgerodt is a Vice President and Senior Philanthropic Advisor, and works with donors on issues including the environment, human rights, and arts & culture. She can be reached at pwillgerodt@rockpa.org.

Footnotes

¹ Just last year, Ned was a Rockefeller Humanities Fellow at Tulane University researching and writing a book on New Orleans, music, culture and history. He is a country music singer and an expert on Cuban music. See his September 1, 2005 interview on the Village Voice

http://www.villagevoice.com/blogs/riffraff/archives/2005/09/katrina_destroy_1.php

² Law professor and public interest litigator Bill Quigley is the Director of the Law Clinic and the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center at Loyola University New Orleans. To read his reflections, go to <http://www.tpmcafe.com/user/14057/recent>

³ “New Orleans Locals Think Katrina's Toll Is Still Rising: Surge in Deaths Blamed On Storm-Related Stress” by Linton Weeks, *Washington Post*, February 19, 2006, A03

⁴ “Skeletal Remains Found in New Orleans” report by *The Associated Press* posted Tuesday, August 1, 2006; 4:21 PM

⁵ “Cancer Alley” is a term coined in the 1980s by Louisiana activists to describe the approximately 85 mile-long, heavily polluted, industrial corridor that runs alongside the Mississippi River from just north of Baton Rouge to New Orleans, which home to 130 petrochemical plants and processors and over 300 major industries.

⁶ Almost immediately thereafter, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) was also funded to work closely with Wilma Subra as well as with community organizations and Gulf Coast activists to draw attention to the environmental hazards that the storms and flooding created. From October to December, NRDC played a leadership role in research and analysis on the environmental situation (see <http://www.nrdc.org/legislation/katrina/katrinainx.asp>). John Adams’ strong September statement made the connections between Katrina and our country’s addiction to oil, the consequence of wetland destruction, global warming and environmental injustice (see <http://www.nrdc.org/about/katrina.asp>).

⁷ <http://www.ega.org/news/index.php?op=read&articleid=178>

⁸ Genaro Rendon, Co-Director, Southwest Workers Union (<http://www.swunion.org>)

⁹ Based in Jackson, Mississippi, Southern Echo (<http://www.southernecho.org>) is a leadership education, training and development organization founded in 1989 and is committed to building new, accountable grassroots leadership based on an inter-generational model.

Gulf Coast Fund Grantee Highlights

With support provided in part by the Gulf Coast Fund, the **Saving Our Selves Coalition** (SOS) has been able to distribute over 300 tons of food and water, organize 1500 volunteers, and help at least 5,000 people in 65 communities. SOS is currently working with internally displaced people in five states, connecting survivors to community, information, and resources.

Gulf Coast Fund grantee, the **Gulf Restoration Network** collaborated with the Sierra Club Gulf Coast Environmental Restoration Task Force to produce in May *The School of Big Storms: The High Cost of Compromising Our Natural Defenses and the Benefits of Protecting Them*, a report examining the layers of protection nature provides—from barrier islands to natural flooding cycles—and the consequences of compromising and undermining natural systems.

With support from the Gulf Coast Fund, Monique Harden and Nathalie Walker, co-directors of **Advocates for Environmental Human Rights**, and Rev. Lois Dejean from **Gert Town Revival Initiative** attended the July meeting of the 87th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, held in Geneva, Switzerland. They testified before the Committee on the status of internally displaced people and successfully advocated for the inclusion of language in the United Nations Human Rights Committee report which addressed the U.S. government's non-compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights protecting right to life and non-discrimination. Not satisfied with the response from U.S. government officials, the Human Rights Committee will continue to monitor reconstruction post Katrina and poor people's—in particular African Americans'—access to housing, healthcare and education.

The **People's Environmental Center** received the largest grant thus far—\$37,000—to complete the first phase of a nonprofit, community-based environmental laboratory in the Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans. The lab will give residents direct access to environmental science and health information by providing free testing of air, soil and water samples. It will also serve local non-governmental organizations that are implementing remediation projects in the areas that need access to a lab. The Fund was able to provide nearly all of the funding needed for the People's Environmental Center to refurbish two properties that will house the

lab and the business offices of both the People's Environmental Center and the **Common Ground Bio-Remediation Project**. The adjoining lot has been turned into a garden and demonstration plot for educating residents about toxin-removing plants and gardening methods.

Gulf Coast Fund grantees, including **Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation** and the **Louisiana Environmental Action Network**, achieved a significant victory in August 2006 when they successfully organized to stop the use of an environmentally hazardous landfill in New Orleans East. The Chef Menteur landfill, located in the heart of the Vietnamese community and near the wetlands Bayou Sauvage, the country's largest urban wildlife refuge, was created by bypassing the required elaborate permitting and public comment process and was slated to accept some 2.6 million cubic yards of waste. Led by Reverend Nguyen The Vien, Vietnamese residents collaborated with environmentalists to organize a media savvy and campaign.

The **Mississippi NAACP**, Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, Institute for Regional and Community Transformation and Oxfam America will be holding weekend events from August 25-27 on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to examine rebuilding efforts and public policy decisions from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance, **New Orleans Workers Justice Coalition**, **Common Ground** and **National Day Laborer Organizing Network** are working together to demand justice for immigrant workers who have suffered massive human rights abuses, including unsafe working conditions, lack of protective gear, unpaid wages, substandard living conditions, etc.

Derrick Evans of the **Turkey Creek Community Initiative**, along with Rose Johnson of the **North Gulfport Community Land Trust** continue their work to ensure that Turkey Creek and North Gulfport, historically-significant African American communities, are rebuilt in a way that protects. Derrick, with support from the Gulf Coast Fund, has helped to organize a new grassroots partnership of 30 community groups called STEPS to fight for five key post-Katrina issues—affordable housing, historic preservation, the environment, equitable economic assistance, and civil rights.

Worthwhile Reports

World Watch Magazine. Special Issue: Katrina: The Failures of Success September/October 2006, Volume 19, No. 5
<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/4482>

Katrina's Legacy: White Racism and Black Reconstruction in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast by Eric Mann, August 2006.
<http://www.frontlinespress.com/>

AND INJUSTICE FOR ALL: *Workers' Lives in the Reconstruction of New Orleans* Judith Browne-Dianis, Advancement Project, Jennifer Lai, Advancement Project, Marielena Hincapie, National Immigration Law Center, Saket Soni, New Orleans Worker Justice Coalition/Advancement Project, July 2006.
<http://www.advancementproject.org/reports/workersreport.pdf>

Rebuilding After Katrina: A Population-Based Study of Labor and Human Rights in New Orleans. By Laurel E. Fletcher, Phuong Pham, Eric Stover, and Patrick Vinck, Interantional Human Rights Law Clinic, Boalt Hall School of Law, UC Berkeley, Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley and Payson Center for International Development and Technology Transfer, Tulane University, June 2006.
<http://www.law.berkeley.edu/news/pr/2006/katrina060706.html>

In the Wake of the Storm: Environment, Disaster, and Race After Katrina.
 By Manuel Pastor, Robert D. Bullard, James K. Boyce, Alice Fothergill, Rachel Morello-Frosch and Beverly Wright, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, May 2006.
<http://www.russellsage.org/news/katrinabulletin2>

The School of Big Storms: The High Cost of Compromising Our Natural Defenses and the Benefits of Protecting Them.
 By Gulf Restoration Network and Sierra Club, May 2006.
<http://www.healthygulf.org/0506bigstorms.htm>

An Unnatural Disaster: The Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
 by Member Scholars of the Center for Progressive Reform, Sept. 2005.
http://www.progressivereform.org/Unnatural_Disaster_512.pdf

Gulf Coast Fund Donors

The Agua Fund

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Sharon Alexis

Katrina House of Care
New Orleans, LA

Dr. Regina Benjamin

BayouClinic
Bayou La Batre, AL

Bishop James Black

Ctr. for Environmental and Economic Justice
Biloxi, MS

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Saving OurSelves Coalition
Mobile, AL

Victoria Cintra/Sue Weishar

Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance
Jackson, MS

Johanna Congleton

Physicians for Social Responsibility - Louisiana
New Orleans, LA

Pam Dashiell

Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
New Orleans, LA

Scott Douglas

Greater Birmingham Ministries
Birmingham, AL

Derrick Evans

Turkey Creek Community Initiatives
Gulfport, MS

Joe Forte, Jr.

Citizen of Chalmette
St. Bernard, LA

Shana Griffin

INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
New Orleans, LA

Monique Harden

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights
New Orleans, LA

Jaribu Hill

MS Workers Center for Human Rights
Greenville, MS

Derrick Johnson

MS-NAACP
Jackson, MS

Rose Johnson

No. Gulfport Community Land Trust
Gulfport, MS

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Huy Bui

National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies
Silver Spring, MD

Aaron Viles

Gulf Restoration Network
New Orleans, LA

Angela Winfrey-Bowman

People's Institute for Survival & Beyond
New Orleans, LA

Beverly Wright

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
Baton Rouge, LA

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