

# Morgan County man makes relief work his life's mission

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The two-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina isn't what's prompting a Morgan County man to head south and volunteer.

He's made the work a key part of his life.

Charles McCoy will leave next week to volunteer in **McCOY** Chal-mette, La., near New Orleans.

Since retiring from KYB in June last year, Charles McCoy, 68, has spent most of his time building homes along the Gulf Coast through CrossRoads Missions, a nonprofit organization that builds homes and assists communities throughout the United States.

McCoy has spent 20 weeks helping with post-hurricane rebuilding. He'll spend three weeks in Chalmette.

CrossRoads usually has 15 full-time workers who spend eight weeks building homes in a neighborhood with the help of about 80 volunteers each week.

The group started working in the New Orleans area in October and has gutted 500 houses, renovated five and built two with about 7,000 volunteers.

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The group's goal is to build 33 homes by April in Chalmette and the Central City district of New Orleans.

McCoy isn't a full-time worker but stays longer than most volunteers.

"When I retired, I told (CrossRoads) to consider me a cheap screwdriver," McCoy said.

He's no stranger to volunteer work. He has volunteered through his church in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia and

Piedras Negras, Mexico.

Early last year, he marshaled 370 volunteers to build prefabricated walls for six homes, which were trucked to New Orleans.

CrossRoads organized 36 weekend events in which volunteers around the Midwest built walls for 112 houses. McCoy helped in 19 of those events.

For McCoy, volunteering is a responsibility.

"If we're not taking advantage of the opportunity to serve, we're failing," McCoy said.

"Down there (in New Orleans) our main spoken goal is building houses," he said. "That's really secondary. Our goal is to help people rebuild their lives."