



CrossRoads Missions

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Help Build Hope busy every weekend throughout summer



We've had at least one build every weekend except for the holiday weekends, and one weekend we had three builds in three different places. In 2010, Help Build Hope completed 43 building events for a total of 64 Habitat houses. This summer we will visit 14 states to complete 48 builds for a total of 62 houses for Habitat for Humanity. In addition, we will build 36 houses for Haiti and 15 Haiti churches. Recall, we are partnering with Northwest Haiti Christian Missions to send panellid homes to areas impacted by last year's devastating earthquake. We've been very busy, and the record heat has been a challenge at nearly every build this year!

We've had some interesting things happening this summer as well. In the past, the Help Build Hope team has almost always contacted area Habitat for Humanity organizations to place the prefabricated walls from a local build. Since we have developed strong relationships with many Habitat organiza-

tions, this year we are beginning to see some "pull" from our Habitat partners. For example, the Dayton Habitat for Humanity contacted Help Build Hope earlier this year. They had identified a recipient for a home, and they knew this family's home church wanted to be involved in building the home. So, the Dayton Habitat asked the Help Build Hope team to meet with the church, which we did. The church subsequently decided to host the build. It's a win-win-win situation for everyone - Help Build Hope led the building event, the Dayton Habitat got the walls and the new homeowners' church family got to participate in building the home!

Rob Minton,
CrossRoads Director



2011 has been a trying year

In 2010 we have seen some great high's and some great lows. Our Appalachia field opened a new field while our Mexico field struggled to have any participation, Help Build Hope had record numbers, and at the same time staff support dropped sharply - largely due to the recession.

We experienced Gods tremendous blessing while at the same time felt as though we were walking through the fire in other areas. For the first time in nearly 20 years of ministry we had to lay people off due to a lack of resources, this is something I hope we never have to do again. However through prayer, faithful supporters and some very significant adjustments in our budget we are on track for 2012, and we will likely make it to the end of 2011.

With such a roller coaster ride of blessing and trial, most of our team welcomes the end of 2011 and yet has a real energy and enthusiasm for 2012. Even though we have made adjustments and will likely make it through without any more layoffs we aren't completely out of the woods. Some of our expenses have simply been deferred and others, while forgiven for a time, will resume in the new year.

I am asking that those who have been so faithful to see us this far, please continue in your giving, and if possible please help us finish this year strong financially. If you aren't already doing so, please pray daily for CrossRoads Ministry, our staff and the work going on in all of our fields. If possible give above your regular giving as we come to the end of the year. Then come and serve with us, if you haven't before or its been a while, we would

love to serve along side you in ministry. Join us in 2012 and make next year a year of service and ministry with your friends and family here at CrossRoads.



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Appalachia is all about transitions this year

Transitions ... they are always full of surprises, tragedies and miracles.

I think transition might be a word that would best describe 2011 for Cross-Roads Missions-Appalachia for the field and for its team members. This year, we launched a second location in Paintsville, Kentucky. Maytown and Paintsville are close enough together that we share resources as needed.

The staff went from two full time staff, one year long intern and six summer interns in one county to three full time staff, one part time staff, one year long intern and eleven interns in two counties. We learned to communicate differently and manage two sites, more equipment, more schedules and still serve our homeowners and participants with excellence.

Sure, in spite of our best efforts to plan and prepare, we had bumps, and glitches and other little "unexpected joys". We had miraculous mud pits, parties in parks, new porches, roofs, ramps, and floors that were completed. In each project God was in control and made each one into something that shaped his people to look more like Him and bring glory to the Kingdom and himself. These transitions were full of miracles!

It wasn't just in the logistics of how the full time staff operated where we experienced transitions. Many of us experienced it in our personal lives too, and we watched and guided our interns as they were approaching a season of transition and were presented with opportunities to choose how they were going to use their lives to worship Christ, not only for the summer but for longer term.

We watched as participants realized that they were capable of doing similar things in their communities and take steps to do it. We listened and shared as



community members continued to ask questions about who we are and why we do the things we do. We watched as they took ownership in their community.

The transitions are only just beginning. I am praying that as transition continues that more lives are completely transformed by the Gospel.

New Orleans diversifies their activities in the community



Crossroads Mission's New Orleans field continued their ministry to both participants and partners this summer. As the field has changed from disaster relief, helping to rebuild following Katrina, to greater diversity in activities, God continues to open doors and sustain relationships with those that we are serving.

Ministries and families are still feeling the effects of Katrina and many are still displaced or living in partially completed homes. The effects of the storm can still be seen everywhere you turn. A closer look still reveals the aftereffects in the lives of those it touched. This summer offered more of the same with our construction platform. Although we continued to support our partner's ministry with various smaller projects, our main focus was on two large tasks.

The first was a ministry partners new home that we hung drywall in three floors. Richard Johnson is a leader in the reestablishment of Desire Fellowship church plant. Being one of the first-fruits of Desire Ministries he and others continue sharing God's word in one of the toughest areas in the country. The house is located in the lower 9th ward and has been broken into three times to

steel copper and anything of value. It was a real blessing for us to help speed up the timeline of occupancy. Groups that had the chance to work with , and get to hear Richard's story, were inspired by what they were a part of.

The second task was the finishing of one half of a duplex. The house is located in the ST. Roch neighborhood and is now occupied by a, soon to be newlywed, young woman who is employed at St. Roch Community Church. We rebuilt sub-floor framing, replaced and refinished flooring, trim, and painted. Providing housing for a young couple also was an inspiration for those that worked there.

We continued with our Summer programs for children through two different partners. First, for the second year, we supported Desire for Change Childrens Program through utilizing our staff and volunteers to provide a six week program. It is a summer camp experience for kids that includes daily devotions, reading integration, field trips, swimming, junior achievement, peacemakers, and fun and games. This program was located in the lower 9th ward and primarily focused in that and the Desire area.

Our second kids program was the Leona Tate Foundation located in the Gentilly area. Although similar to Desire for change, it was different in that it had a strong emphasis on an awareness of Civil Rights history in New Orleans. This was our first year offering assistance to Leona. With both programs many lives were deeply effected. Both volunteers and children.

We continued our support daily with the New Orleans Mission Homeless Shelter. Our staff and volunteers had the opportunity to prepare and serve meals, renovate pantries, stock and organize donations, and work in their garden. The relationships and eye-opening experience there also had a great impact on those involved.

Volunteer numbers were much lower this summer than in the past years. This makes it difficult to meet the outstanding needs here as they actually seem to grow daily. God shows up in many ways to multiply our workers but the need for the harvesters still is great. We will continue to search avenues to raise awareness and participation for the many unique opportunities we have here in New Orleans to serve.