



For Immediate Release

Women unite to rebuild Katrina-damaged homes

Chalmette, La. (May 11-16, 2009) – More than 200 women will gather in St. Bernard Parish this week to take part in the St. Bernard Project's (SBP) third annual **Women's Rebuild Week**. In partnership with United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area's Women's Leadership Council (WLC), this weeklong event celebrates the role women play in all aspects of society, including post-disaster recovery, by empowering volunteers to help rebuild 20 homes.

Beginning Monday, May 11 at 9 a.m., volunteers will work throughout the week to rebuild the homes of Katrina survivors. These women (and their male counterparts) will participate in all phases of the rebuilding including hanging insulation and drywall, painting, flooring and installing doors and windows. By the end of the week, 20 more families will be closer to moving out of their FEMA trailers or other temporary housing and back into their homes.

The event draws volunteers from across the country, as well as strong female role models. In addition to the regular workdays, SBP and WLC provide special events for volunteers and locals, such as an opening picnic, a welcome home party and an awards reception highlighting special partners, donors and volunteers.

Schedule of events:

Monday, May 11	Work 8:30-4:30 p.m.; Picnic Lunch 12 p.m. @ Torres Park, Chalmette
Tuesday, May 12	Work 8:30-4:30 p.m.; Happy Hour 6-8 p.m. @ Tropical Isle Original, New Orleans
Wednesday, May 13	Work 8:30-4:30 p.m.; Dinner and a Play 6 p.m. @ OLPS School, Chalmette
Thursday, May 14	Work 8:30-4:30 p.m.; Dessert Bar/Silent Auction/Awards Ceremony 7:30 p.m. @ Fine Arts Center, New Orleans
Friday, May 15	Work 8:30-4:30 p.m.; Welcome Home Party 12 p.m. @ SBP home, Meraux
Saturday, May 16	Work 9:30-3:30 p.m.; Ice Cream Social 4 p.m. @ SBP offices, Chalmette

About the St. Bernard Project:

The St. Bernard Project is a nationally-lauded, nonprofit rebuilding organization that helps families rebuild their homes and lives. Using volunteer labor, the St. Bernard Project takes gutted houses and makes them livable again in approximately eight or nine weeks for \$12,000-\$15,000. Since it began rebuilding in July 2006, SBP has rebuilt 210 homes with the assistance of more than 11,000 volunteers. SBP will expand its rebuilding model into several other areas of New Orleans in the next several months and will replicate these services nationwide for post-disaster recovery.

SBP also opened its Community Wellness and Mental Health Center in February 2009 in partnership with the Department of Psychiatry at LSU's Health Sciences Center to address health and wellness issues.

About the Women's Leadership Council:

Founded in 2002, the Women's Leadership Council consists of more than 900 members who have worked to change the lives of women and the face of child care services in the Greater New Orleans Area, collectively investing more than \$1 million in quality child care to ensure that all children are ready to learn when they enter school. The WLC is committed to making certain that issues important to women are being adequately addressed and funded.

For more information, contact:

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