

VERMILION FAITH COMMUNITY OF CARE

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Activity, Finance, and Public Benefit Summary December 14, 2005

Jim Grant, Ph.D., GSW
Executive Director

Hurricane Lili:

Vermilion Faith Community of Care (VFCC) was incorporated in February 2003 as a nonprofit, or public benefit, corporation with the purpose of contributing the energies of the local faith community to the long-term recovery of families whose homes and lives were devastated by Hurricane Lili. We actively worked on this process for 1-1/2 years. We worked closely with other organizations, particularly Volunteers of America and United Methodist Disaster Recovery, where two of our board members found employment. Together, we were able to assist 180 Vermilion Parish families with home repairs, often major, and, as an informal coalition, to complete these processes long ahead of original estimates.

Our total budget during this period was less than \$30,000. Approximately 2/3 of this was paid to our Executive Director and Secretary.

Between hurricanes:

We broadened our mission to "uniting the faith community of Vermilion Parish in service through meeting critical human need". We plan to be ready and available to provide services related to any local disaster.

Hurricane Katrina (late August to end of September):

We began our recovery efforts as soon as the first Katrina evacuees arrived in the parish. We participated in and contributed to many public meetings to establish and develop services. We chose as our specific focuses to work on providing hot meals and assisting evacuees in obtaining medications.

Board member Liz Touchet coordinated the hot meal process, getting groups to cook meals 24 evenings contributing approximately 3,360 person-hours of labor valued at \$60,480, providing approximately 6,120 meals to evacuees, valued at approximately \$4 per meal, and bringing evacuees approximately \$84,960 in in-kind services.

Very shortly after we started purchasing medications for those in need, pharmacy chains began providing free medications for those affected by Katrina, so we discontinued this effort.

Board member Rev. Kevin Williams established a shelter at the church he pastors, St. Mary Congregational Church. This shelter housed approximately 40 evacuees for well over a month, before dwindling in numbers in October, for an additional in-kind value of \$33,380 for food and shelter.

We worked closely with Vermilion Parish Clerk of Court Diane Meaux Broussard in developing the parish's donated goods process. We directed donated clothing to Christians Helping Others (CHO), and gave them a donation of \$2,500 to help pay for school uniforms for evacuee children. When Vermilion Parish residents were called to evacuate for Hurricane Rita, we gave \$4,350 to Katrina evacuee families to help them with their second evacuation. An earmarked donation of \$500 was spent on pet food.

We paid our Executive Director an \$80 contract amount for September.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: FATHER KEITH MILLIGAN, PRESIDENT, MRS. LIZ TOUCHET, TREASURER, REV. KEVIN WILLIAMS, MRS. MARILYN MITCHELL, MR. ELBERT DAWSON, MRS. BECKY BROUSSARD,

Summary:

Personnel costs:	\$80
Direct contributions to evacuees:	\$7,350
Other expenses:	\$80
In-kind services:	\$118,340
Total:	\$125,850

Hurricane Rita (end of September to present)

In late September, the curtains were drawn and the scenery was changed in this drama of Vermilion Parish Hurricane Recovery. We emerged into Act 2, Scene 2, with many Katrina evacuees having moved elsewhere, and thousands of homes in Vermilion Parish damaged or destroyed by wind and two storm surges. Victims of Rita have a very different set of needs for us to address than those presented by Katrina evacuees. We thus began to set our sights on the most fundamental one, long-term recovery, which had been our focus with Hurricane Lili.

In early October, with assistance from United Way of Acadiana, we opened a Volunteer Reception Center to coordinate the efforts of volunteers coming from around the region and elsewhere around the country to assist local families, starting with "mucking out" and cleanup. We have had two steady 'volunteers', evacuees employed by the Louisiana Department of Labor and generously donated to us by United Way of Acadiana. We have put more than 220 other volunteers to work. Together they have worked 5,200 hours on 61 houses, for an in-kind contribution of \$101,410.

We have partnered with the Christian Service Center (CSC) in getting cash into the hands of those who suffered loss by either hurricane through giving CSC \$5,000 of Wal-Mart cards to distribute. More will probably be given to CSC soon.

Since early November, we have taken the lead in organizing groups and resources in Vermilion Parish in the development of a Long-Term Recovery Coalition, which now has about 20 participating organizations. Our Executive Director is serving as the chair of this coalition, and VFCC has set aside \$35,000 as an initial outlay for needs presented at the Unmet Needs Committee.

We have acquired the use of a 5,400 sq. ft. warehouse, valued at \$1,000 per month, and we get office space donated by the St. Paul Episcopal Church and St. Mary Congregational Church, together valued at \$1,000 per month. We have received several truckloads of donated goods. Tools and building materials, already valued at over \$5,000, we keep for renovation work; other goods we pass on to others, including CHO, Cajun Christmas, and distribution centers.

We have hired several contract workers onto our staff, with monthly contract amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1,200 (Executive Director).

Summary:

Personnel costs:	\$5,250
Direct contributions to evacuees:	\$5,000
Other expenses:	\$2,400
In-kind services:	\$109,400
Total:	\$122,050