



## *Stand Up for Rural America*

### **Rural Community Developers Network Reporter**

September 15, 2008

#### ***Stand Up Update: NEWS FROM THE GULF, HELP URGENTLY NEEDED.***

Your help is essential. Tragedy has visited the Louisiana Gulf Coast again. And virtually no one knows it. The media doesn't get out to rural America much, even in the wake of hurricanes. The story that follows comes from Lorna Bourg, Director of Southern Mutual Help Association, serving more than a dozen rural parishes along the coast. Since Katrina and Rita, Southern Mutual has helped nearly 1,000 families, businesses and churches rebuild. That's more than anyone else. Now, both Gustav and Ike have wreaked havoc. Ike's storm surge was worse than Rita, and Rita was the worst in living memory. Thanks to the solid work of the Mennonites and thousands of volunteers, these homes and businesses are still standing. But so many more are not. **Please read this story, pass it on and, despite the economy, dig into your pockets and give whatever you can.** Go to <http://www.southernmutualhelp.org/>.

### **"The Power of the Story"**

by Lorna Bourg

**New Orleans and all of America gave a sigh of relief as Hurricane Gustav left levees intact in a still suffering city on the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.** What most of America missed was the rural story. Our national media missed it too. For days, reporters, holed up in the Big Easy failed to go where news was being made: families on Island Road in Lower Lafourche Parish sleeping on wet mattresses in homes destroyed by Gustav, whole areas down Highway 1 covered in oil and sludge, rural communities with names like Dulac, Chauvin and Montegut inundated as boats and businesses in Lower Terrebonne lie in ruins. **Then came Ike's full fury on Galveston.** That terrible destruction is rightly covered by media, though they once

again missed the catastrophic surge of water and devastation all across coastal Louisiana.

Groups like *Stand Up for Rural America* and The Center for Rural Strategies give us hope. They give face and voice to rural realities - the natural resource base of our nation, the courage and graciousness of families and communities still in recovery from Katrina and Rita, their determination to hold on to their land even as new storms claim the next letters of our alphabet.

**There are powerful stories in rural America and they deserve to be told.**

### *Policy Update*

**The National Low Income Housing Coalition has compiled an analysis of the Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac takeover and what it will mean for housing and community development.** The analysis explains how the organizations will now be regulated and what their policies will be with regard to community development. To read the article, go to [http://www.nlihc.org/detail/article.cfm?article\\_id=5494](http://www.nlihc.org/detail/article.cfm?article_id=5494).

### *Funding and Financing Opportunities*

**From September 1 to November 1, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) will accept inquiries for grant funding through its Community Organizing and Economic Development programs.** Community-based developers may be good candidates for funding. The maximum grant size is \$50,000. Please visit <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/grant.shtml> to find out more.

**The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation (LCEF) funds community improvement programs projects and home safety initiatives.** Some possible uses for the funding include building repair and renovation, community cleanup and landscaping and painting projects, for example. To apply, go to <http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=frameSet&url=apps.bridgetree.com/funding/default.asp>.

**The Foundation Center website provides a list of RFPs that get updated every day.** Make sure to check it frequently to stay on top of funding opportunities. For more information go to <http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/>.

### *Training Events and Conferences*

**The Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises annual meeting will be held September 24-25 at the Marriott Charleston Town Center in Charleston, WV.** The meeting will feature several workshops and plenary sessions and various networking opportunities. For the conference brochure and registration information, go to [http://fahe.org/files/FAHE\\_Annual\\_Meeting\\_Brochure.pdf](http://fahe.org/files/FAHE_Annual_Meeting_Brochure.pdf).

**The Center on Wealth and Philanthropy and the Association of Fundraising Professionals are putting on "The Supply and Demand of Philanthropy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Strategies for Fundraising and Financial Professionals" from October 7-8 in Chestnut Hill, MA.** For more information, go to <http://www.bc.edu/research/cwp/features/supplydemandconference.html>.

**Neighborworks America offers an Online E-Learning Foreclosures Basics Course from its website.** This certificate course provides participants with the tools they will need to help their clients through the foreclosure process. To register, go to <http://nw.org/network/training/elearning.asp>.

**AAHSA, the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, is hosting its annual conference in Philadelphia from October 11 – 15.** The event, which will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, will bring a broad focus to the subject of services and housing for the aging. For more information, go to <http://www.aahsaconference.org/>.

### *Information and Other Resources*

**The summer 2008 issue of *Shelter Force*, a publication from the National Housing Institute, focuses on "What Green Means to Communities."** This issue deals green oriented activities in several communities. To view the publication, go to <http://www.shelterforce.org/>.

**The Economic Research Service at USDA has produced “Creating Markets for Environmental Stewardship: Potential Benefits and Problems.”** The report

discusses the role of governments in the creation of markets for environmental services. To download the report, go to

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/September08/Features/CreatingMarkets.htm>.

*Send information on funding opportunities, events, publications, resources or rural related policy issues to [reporter@ruralamerica.org](mailto:reporter@ruralamerica.org). Announcements will be published at our discretion based on space and applicability.*

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