

Greensboro Echo

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HURRICANE KATRINA & ITS RAMIFICATION

by Frank Taylor



The Gulf States were recently struck by category-4 hurricane Katrina causing catastrophe damages to homes, businesses, farms, schools and the loss of human life. Katrina was the most powerful hurricane to inundate the Gulf States since Camille 1969, which was no match in total damages caused by hurricane Katrina. According, Ralph Paige, Executive Director of Federation of Southern Cooperatives, (pictured above) "This hurricane has disrupted life with an inevitable blow, which will take years to repair and bring stability back into this region." The Gulf States are vitally important to our national economy for several reasons, oil refineries, shipping channels, and home to the best productive farmers in the United States. The Federation of Southern Cooperatives is concerned

about the health and status of each displaced families. We are committed to helping the entire region return to normalcy. We are partnering with other organizations to bring needed resources immediately Paige stated. We have assembled an assessment team to gather information from farmers affected by hurricane Katrina and we will be dispersing needed funds within days. We estimated 70 percent of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives Membership in Mississippi and Alabama has been affected, therefore, we must move with zeal to help relieve the suffering. Our farmers have suffered home and crop losses, which has placed each farmer in double jeopardy of losing the entire farm; nevertheless, we will provide leadership and technical support to overcome this imposition. The Mississippi Association of Cooperatives has been working around the clock, according to Ben Burkett, State Director; we have dispersed boxes of can goods, fresh vegetables, toiletries and other basic supplies. We are planning to carry more supplies within days, according to Burkett. For more information contact the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives. 601-354-2750.

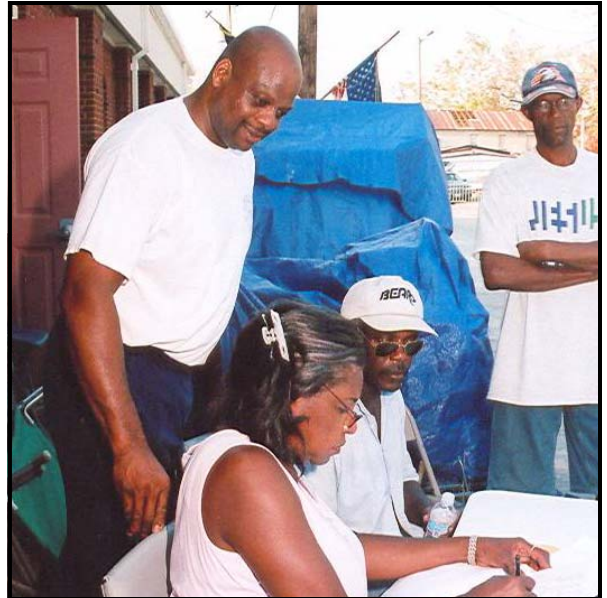
WINSTON COUNTY SELF HELP COOPERATIVE DONATES

by Frank Taylor



Katrina dealt a severe hand of devastation to the Mississippi Gulf Coast which will cost billion of dollars to repair structure damages. The damage seems from afar by television seemingly distorted, but in person its heart wrenching to witness the devastation. Some homes survived hurricane Camille were no match for Katrina's surge that totally wiped out subdivisions. Division Street in Biloxi seems like a bomb was dropped on this immaculate neighborhood because of massive destruction to homes, schools, churches, and businesses. However, the spirit within Division Street is ready to rebuild life in East Biloxi. Main Street Baptist Church is distributing food, water; dealing with health care issues and assisting individuals with FEMA, MEMA and other relief agencies. According to Ms. Turner, we are fortunate to have our church structure intact to serve as a hub for recovery activities. We have been here everyday around the clock for the past 3 weeks serving East Biloxi and we will be here until the mission is completed. Winston County Self Help Cooperative has teamed up with Main Street Baptist Church to bring relief in the form of financial donations. The cooperative will bring more supplies in the first week of October. According to Dorothy Harper Cooperative Youth Director, we are collecting supplies from the community at large because all of us have been affected by hurricane Katrina. For more information contact Dorothy Harper 662-773-8264.

REFLECTIONS OF HURRICANE KATRINA DEVESTATION



Winston County Self Help Cooperative next meeting date is November 7, 2005 at the Extension Office on Vance Street in Louisville, MS. for more information contact Gloria Moore 662-705-0112 or Hubert Nicholson 662-773-3336

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