SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DISASTER RESPONSE GROUP
ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

IS NEW ORLEANS BACK?

visit CBD and the Quarter and you will see...

cross the canal into St. Bernard Parish and you will see...

there is still work to be done
Gulf Coast Recovery

Alternative Spring Break Service Learning Project

Sponsored by:
School of Social Work
Disaster Response Group
School or camp?

- Camp Hope
  - Located
  - Purpose
  - Residents
  - Environment
  - Rules
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What we saw
Population

- St. Bernard Parish population pre-Katrina was over 60,000
- The St. Bernard Parish population is now up to 25,000
Murphy's Oil Spill

- 1,050,000 gallons released
- 1700 homes impacted
- 18,000 barrels are recovered

http://www.epa.gov/katrina/testresults/murphy/
Alumni Support

- New Orleans Downtown Development District
- Alumni dinner
and the Quarter...
Community Needs Assessment

- Training
- Door knocking
- Data entry

AMBER, can we get the numbers here???
Your turn...

- Scenerio 1
  - Card 1
  - Card 2
  - Card 3
- Results
Your turn...

- Scenerio 2
  - Card 1
  - Card 2
  - Card 3
- Results
Your turn...

- Scenerio 3
  - Card 1
  - Card 2
  - Card 3
- Results
Lessons Learned

- Ethics
- Participation incentive
- Include all residents
  - In need
  - For assessors
- Provide report to residents
Preconceiving St. Bernard’s

- The nature of Community Needs Assessment
- Prioritization of needs
- Our role & Purpose
- Participating in a Coalition
Adapting to the Environment
Flexibility and Adjustment

- Change Strategies
- Managing Group Relations
- Self-Care and Emotional Balance
- Foresight
SWOT

Strengths:
- Optimism and commitment to the parish
- Strong sense of community and working together
- Communication between neighbors
- Local businesses
- Local churches reopening
- Red Cross involvement
SWOT

Weaknesses:
- Emptiness
- Lack of employment
- Unmet needs
- Murphy Oil Company
- Environmental concerns
- Lack of public transportation
SWOT

Opportunities:

- Volunteerism
- Highlighting Social Justice issues
- National organizations
- NOLA culture and heritage
SWOT

Threats:

- Not Enough Resources for Everyone
- Lack of Federal support
- Continued insufficiency of levees
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Critique

- Report to residents
- Misleading
- Training
Response Action Steps

- Resident inclusion
- Disaster Task Force
- Coordination
- Social workers
- Mobile Mental Health Unit
Action Steps

- Suppose to be action that others can do in rebuilding efforts???
Intro: (I’ll just introduce us and say the thing about trying to find the best words to convey our experience) No slide needed, unless we wanted to put our names up under a photo with a title or something...

Community Perspectives on their needs:
- Louisiana Road Home Loan: not much hope for financial help
- Half finished houses: no money/resources left to get out of trailer and into house
- Mississippi Gulf River Outlet (MRGO) must go!: caused vulnerability to the storm
- Army Corps of Engineers lawsuit: a political statement
- Health/ mental healthcare services: limited and far away
- Employment: hard to find, uncertain if former employers will return
- Temporary Housing: FEMA trailers gone August 31st
- Lack of neighborhood: uncertainty if some old neighbors will return, several deserted
  houses between occupied ones
- Lack of trust: government, contractors, insurance companies
- Families separated: family members still in other states, moving to other part of county
Thank you to all our donors

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- Professor Checkoway
- Professor Danziger
- Professor Delva
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- Professor Ortega
- Professor Powell
- Professor Saunders
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- Professor Tropman
- Professor Vinokur
- Professor Voshel
- Professor Woodford