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Corporation

E-News & Notes

October 3rd, 2005



**Hearts and
Hammers**

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1. RPJ Housing Welcomes Home Two New Orleans Families

Hurricane Katrina's wrath has destroyed homes, separated relatives, and scattered families across the country, often with nothing but the clothes on their backs. It has also unleashed an outpouring of support from citizens, businesses, community organizations and congregations, the likes of which this nation has never seen. These contributions mean the difference between homelessness and building a new life with stable housing. RPJ Housing responded to the call for shelter by providing housing to two families from New Orleans who lost their apartments and all of their belongings. Both families will live rent-free for two years. We have also served as signator on leases for two more families.

But a roof and four walls is not enough, so we turned to our local community for help. The response has been overwhelming: **Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, and Kol Ami** (the Northern Virginia Reconstructionist Community) gave truckloads of furniture and cash contributions. A Kol Ami member is giving one family his car. **Leslie Lesner** worked with **Belfort Furniture** to provide two queen size beds and three single beds, and **Brandon McAleese**, one of RPJ Housing's residents, contributed furniture for a living room. **Jerry Bresee** donated an entire household of furniture! Finally, the **Chart House of Alexandria** employees, under the leadership of **Virginia Lund**, collected a six month supply of canned food and clothing for the two families.

Our families settled into their new homes on September 17th and are getting acquainted with their new neighborhood. Soon they will receive additional resources and support from **Heritage Presbyterian Church, Fabringen** (a Reconstructionist Community in Washington, DC) and the **Falls Church Rotary Club**. These families share their profound gratitude to everyone who has helped them get back on their feet. Clearly, even the awesome strength of a hurricane is no match for the power of human kindness.

2. Events and Announcements

The Sixth Annual ESSI Golf Classic swung into action on the sun filled 12th of September, raising \$27,000 for RPJ Housing's Rebuilding Together and Hearts and Hammers programs. Congratulations to **Camelot Contractors** for their first place finish! Many thanks to all the golfers, donors and volunteers who made this event possible. Special kudos go to our wonderful sponsors. *Corporate Sponsor-* **Electronic Security Services, Inc;** *Birdie Sponsors -* **Citibank Community Development, Freddie Mac Community Relations Donor Assisted Fund;** and **United Security and Communications, Inc.;** and *Par Sponsors* **Allied Barton Security Services, GE Security, Legg Mason Funds** and **Dolores Stafford**.



RPJ Housing welcomes three new employees: Phillip Chang, Patricia Henderson–Akers and Charles Robinson. Patrice or “P” as we know her, started as a part-time leasing assistant in August. Customer service is P’s specialty, having worked in medical administration and retail. Charles (a.k.a. “Chuck”) holds certifications in HVAC and steam and pipe fitting. He joined the property maintenance crew in August. Phillip joined the maintenance team in September, bringing his experience in wood flooring, HVAC, carpentry and painting.

3. Want Ads

Wanted: Individuals who like to party! Help us organize next year’s Monte Carlo Night. Coordinate the silent auction, the raffle, help secure sponsors, coordinate volunteers, be a D.J., or work on decorations. Contact Jeannie for details at 703-528-5606 x18 or jcummins@rpjhousing.org.

Wanted: Handymen and Handywomen. If you have a few hours to spare, we have several small projects that need another pair of hands or two. Work alone or with us. Time and talents are flexible. We will find something just right for you. Call Roger at (703) 528-5606 x14 or Warren at x11 for details.

Wanted: Your frequent flyer miles or credit card points! We can turn these into silent auction and raffle items for Monte Carlo Night on May 12th, 2006 and it doesn’t cost a thing. Talk to Jeannie at 703-528-5606 x18 for more information.

4. Did You Know?

Based upon 2000 Census data and maps of Hurricane Katrina damage, the National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates 302,000 housing units were damaged or destroyed by this brutal storm and the flooding that followed. Approximately 55% were rental units, and nearly 71% of these units were affordable to low income renters. The region also lost about 22,000 rental units affordable to extremely low income households who earn below 30% of the area median income. For details, go to www.nlihc.org/research/05-02.pdf.

Count me in! I want to help RPJ Housing help people like RPJ Housing’s Katrina families. Here is my tax-deductible contribution to support *RPJ Housing’s* efforts to develop and preserve affordable housing in the Washington metropolitan area.

\$25.00 \$50.00 \$75.00 \$100.00 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

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