

**Gulf Coast Relief Funding Panel
Conference Call Report 8-15-2006
1pm CEN, 2pm EST**

Present: Eunice Benton, Joe Sullivan, Meg Riley, Becky Cureau, Martha Thompson, Gretchen Alther, Steve Crump

1. Welcome to Gretchen Alther, new program associate for UUSC working on proposals with Martha.

2. GRANT REQUEST: The Tamb-o-rine and Fan Club of Treme, New Orleans

Requested Grant Amount: \$46,200 (Total Project Budget: \$104,020)

Goal: To aid the restoration of New Orleans by bringing displaced youth back to their city and providing opportunities for youth's voices to be heard in the reconstruction process, while renewing youth's collective sense of value in maintaining the rich culture of New Orleans.

→**VOTE:** Joe Sullivan moves for support in amount of \$46,200. Eunice Benton seconds.

MOTION PASSES.

3. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

a. Mississippi Working Group met July 15th and will have training program for self and Gulf Coast MS congregations on "being a good service leader" on 9/16. Jinnie Trabulsi is on the ground as MS Volunteer Coordinator as of August 1.

b. Volunteer Advisory Group

On August 1, Joe met with steering committee of HRSJP in Baton Rouge. Meeting was much needed and helped clarify roles, responsibilities and goals of Volunteer project. Volunteer program advisory group will meet face-to-face August 16th.

c. New Orleans Working Group next meets in September

4. ANNIVERSARY of Katrina (August 29th, 2006) and Rita (September 24th, 2006)

Joe reiterated what the GCRP feels should be emphasized coverage/communication targeted to UUs in conjunction with the anniversary of Katrina:

1. Vulnerable people are being left behind. Their needs and voices need to be raised up. UUA-UUSC is doing this with certain partner organizations funded by the GCRF. There is much more work to do to raise up these voices and address the needs.
2. What is the good the GCRF has done for marginalized communities and for UU churches impacted by Katrina?
3. There is much left to do and your help is needed: emphasis on volunteering and advocacy.

It is agreed that the Panel is not recommending a focused fund-raising push in conjunction with the anniversary. (Panel is not set up to receive and distribute funds in perpetuity and it is not the call of the Panel to make such a fund-raising push). Rather, feel we need a push for volunteers and issue-focused advocacy.

Call ended 2:30pm CST, 3:30pm EST

Report Respectfully Submitted by Megan Joiner.