

## Voices from the Recovery Gulf Coast Winterim 2006

Day 3 -- 3/7/06  
Martha Walker

This morning some of us went for a walk down "Lovers Lane" in Ocean Springs. We walked to where the water damage could be seen on both sides of the street. We walked onto the foundation of a house (one of what seems like thousands) that had been completely destroyed.

My team (team 1) worked at St. John's today. We planted flowerbeds and did some painting that needed to be done around the church. It was harder to paint a wooden shed than I expected. It took us the entire day to paint three sides of the building, and there was still more painting to be done around the church.

Afterwards, we had the opportunity to walk and play along the beach for a while. For dinner, we were invited to the home of Dr. Bill Lucas and his wife, Karen. Dr. Lucas, a former college professor, cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for all of us. We had met the couple on Sunday and they had invited us to dinner. They even had homemade brownies. The food was delicious.

I felt a little overwhelmed by the generosity of people who had been affected by the hurricane but were willing to open their home to us. The Lucas family lost their main home in the storm, but retained their secondary residence, which has now become their primary dwelling. Somehow, it almost didn't feel right to have them serve us when we came here to help them. We were all very grateful.

Day 3 – 3/7/06  
Amanda Finney

Teams 2, 3 and 6 worked at the lot for a couple of hours today that the other Heathwood groups started yesterday. Thinking that it would take a long time to clear the lot, we all worked hard, and in no time we had two huge piles of debris and were finished. After lunch, we rode the bus to the other side of Ocean Springs to a residential neighborhood close to the beach where most of the houses had been leveled. The house where we were assigned belonged to a Vietnamese family. It suffered severe structural damage and was a mess, but it was still standing. Half of the second floor was leaning away from the foundation. We were put in charge of clearing debris from the yard. As we worked, we began to notice many sentimental items such as shoes, clothes, a small cross-stitching hoop and a picture of a small girl. This left a profound impact on all of us and reminded us of how lucky we really were.

Day 3 – 3/7/06  
Multiple Students

During our experience at the distribution center, teams 4 and 5 swept the warehouse and prepared enough cots for 200 volunteers. We also picked up trash around the building, and some of our team members helped fold linens that would soon be distributed to Katrina survivors. After we worked for several hours, we walked through downtown, and we met people who shared their accounts of the storm.