



VOLUNTEER HOUSE

R³ SM
Restore
Rebuild
Recover

United Way
United Way
of Southeast Mississippi

HOUSE





Traditionally the three R's have represented the basics of a quality education, 'readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmatic'. But the three R's took on a new meaning following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The 3 R's represented the return to life as it was known, Recover, Rebuild, and Restore for entire communities, right down to the center of life for hundreds of families, their home.

Even a year after Katrina, thousands of individuals and families throughout southeast Mississippi were still struggling to make ends meet after having lost everything to howling winds or murky flood waters. Most of these families were living in buildings that needed significant repair, or even worse, they had no permanent home at all.

In the face of the lingering needs in southeast Mississippi, in 2006 Recover, Rebuild, Restore, Southeast Mississippi (R³SM) developed out of a commitment to confront the tremendous needs.

The United Way of Southeast Mississippi initially developed the program to provide a central point of coordination for applications for assistance, recovery funds, volunteer labor, and other resources for recovery projects, serving three counties: Forrest, Lamar and Perry.

Since its inception R³SM has emerged as Mississippi's south central long-term recovery agency, expanding from serving clients in the original three counties to serving clients in 28 south central Mississippi counties including the majority of counties south of I-20. The counties served includes Adams, Amite, Clarke, Copiah, Covington,

Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Scott, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Wayne and Wilkinson counties. The home office is located in Hattiesburg, with satellite offices in McComb in Pike County, and in Laurel in Jones County.

MISSION

The mission of R³SM is to coordinate recovery services for individuals whose homes are damaged by hurricanes, tornados, flooding, fire and other catastrophic events. The agency also organizes recovery, rebuilding and restoration, together with other services for families, whose homes are in need of repair, starting with the most vulnerable first: the indigent, elderly, disabled and single parents with dependent children. R³SM is currently serving clients in 28 counties.

R³SM was formed to offer services and relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Nearly four years after the storm, the vast majority of Katrina relief cases have received services and attention, and the number of cases is subsiding, yet residual remains and the need for and the power of volunteers is as important as ever.

R³SM has overseen the distribution of donations, services and grants exceeding \$5.7 million. The organization has proven to be responsible stewards of those resources dedicated toward helping victims of Katrina get back on their feet.

Katrina was a point of departure. This disaster proved the need for a permanent long-term recovery agency. R³SM is now three years old. Beginning with its leadership following disaster recovery for Katrina, R³SM is now recognized statewide and nationally for its leadership and service.

R³SM NOW NEEDS A PERMANENT HOME

After repairing over 350 homes, building eight new homes, with four more on the drawing board, and meeting the needs of thou-

sands, the greatest challenge now for R³SM and the agencies with which it partners is a home of its own. The need is for adequate housing for volunteers who come to the area, and administrative offices for the agency.



Many volunteers cannot make a trip to the Pine Belt because there is no place for them to stay. Volunteers cannot afford to stay in a hotel, the most consistent form of lodging available. The need for this growing service agency is an agency-

owned volunteer housing facility.

In response to this need, R³SM, through the help of a seed grant from United Way of America, has purchased a permanent volunteer housing facility. The facility is a two-story building located in Historic Downtown Hattiesburg, at 301 Buschman Street. The future volunteer home was once a boardinghouse, a home away from home, for the men who maintained the railroad that brought south Mississippi to prominence almost a century ago.

After years of dwindling into disrepair, 301 Buschman Street will now receive new life and once again become a home away from home. But this time the home will be for volunteers, who have come to the Pine Belt to bring our region back to life, following disasters.

When fully restored, the over 10,000 square foot facility will

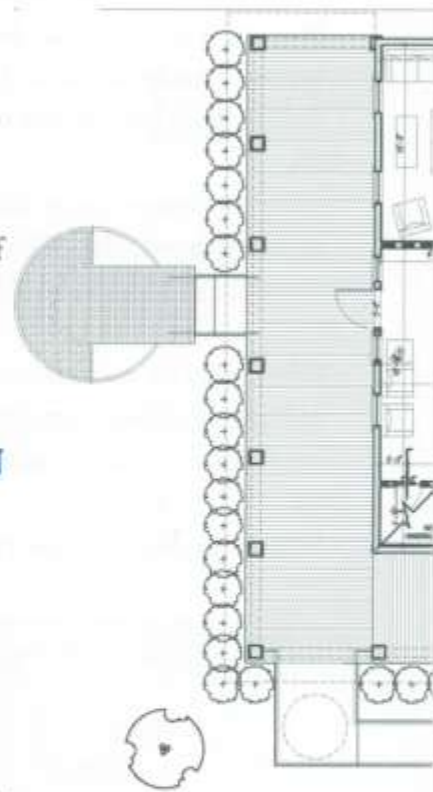


house R³SM's administrative offices, bedrooms to accommodate 60 volunteers at one time with the ability to increase sleeping capacity throughout the building to as many as 100 volunteers during catastrophic events. Some of the sleeping rooms are in a suite arrangement with one bath between two adjoining rooms; others will be large bunk style accommodations. There are private one bedroom efficiencies for married couples volunteering together. The building will also have ample kitchen and dining facilities, along with meeting rooms, computer areas and space for relaxing and recreation.

The facility will host not only R³SM volunteers, but will also host volunteers that other agencies from throughout the community might bring to the area. This can give a ripple effect that will literally make room for a spirit of volunteerism and service that will drive the restoration and improvement of the entire region.

VOLUNTEER HOUSE MAJOR GIFTS CAMPAIGN

The campaign to renovate the 10,000 sq. ft. Buschman Street property with enough bedrooms to accommodate 60 volunteers at one time with the ability to increase sleeping capacity throughout the building to as many as 100 volunteers during catastrophic events and R³SM administrative offices will be a year-long major gift capital campaign. This renovation will bring the property to a productive life once again. The campaign will provide exceptional opportunities to participate in the development of an excitingly unique facility to assist people whose lives have been disrupted by some life-threatening calamity and who live in the 28 south Mississippi counties currently served.



"R³SM is wonderful for the community. So many people who have come here and couldn't believe they helped build us a brand new home, and they have helped so many other people. It draws the community closer together. People do help people."

CAMPAIGN DONOR RECOGNITION

Name of the Building

This 10,000 sq. ft. building will be named for a donor who makes a commitment of \$100,000. This name will be displayed on the front of the building and become part of the official name of the building. (Name) VOLUNTEER HOUSE

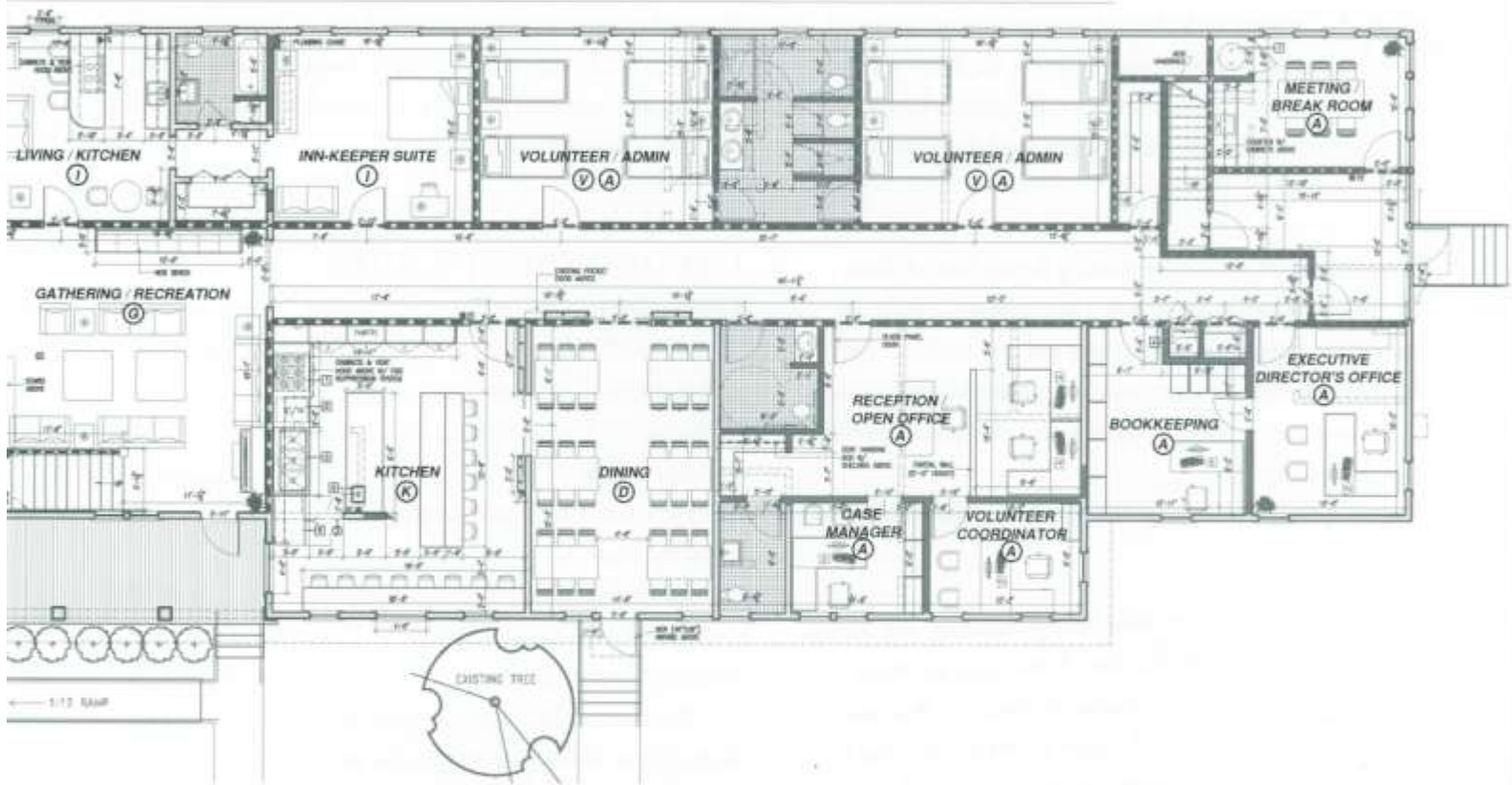
Kitchen and Dining Area

The institutional kitchen will be outfitted to prepare full meals for volunteer groups. Additionally facilities will be available for volun-

teers to prepare snacks, job-site lunches and the like. Outfitting the kitchen and dining room will require a gift commitment of \$50,000. (Name) KITCHEN AND DINING AREA

Administrative Wing, First Floor

These offices, located at the rear of the building on the first floor, will house the permanent staff of R²SM. Included in the wing will be 4 permanent staff offices, a receptionist/waiting area, a small break room and 2 swing offices that can be used to either sleep volunteers or house additional staff as the need dictates. With



a commitment of \$50,000 the donor's name will become the name of that wing. (Name) ADMINISTRATIVE WING

Gathering and Recreation Room

This large inviting room, on the first floor, will provide a place for volunteers to rest, meet, relax and enjoy some special time. To name this room, the commitment will be a gift of \$25,000. (Name) GATHERING AND RECREATION ROOM

Innkeeper's Suite

This first floor suite will be the home of the individual or couple who will manage the building during evening and week-end hours and provide supply support services to the out of town volunteers. The innkeeper will reside in the building on a full-time basis. A gift of \$25,000 will place a donor name on this suite. (Name) INNKEEPER'S SUITE

Conference and Community Meeting Room, Second Floor

This room will be set up with a large conference table and chairs with capability for laptop access and presentations. The Board of Directors and community groups can use this room for general meetings. Naming of this room can be made with a commitment of \$25,000. (Name) CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

"We are a long-term recovery agency; we were created to respond to the families in this community from Hurricane Katrina. As we are working 3 and a half years after K. what we found was there were many people who were identified immediately after the storm, but there were many who got lost in the system and so as we were able to send out case managers and other workers, we have discovered quite a number of other people."



Exterior Beautification (Southern entry porch and landscaping)

The building has a large beautiful southern porch, which when renovated will have ceiling fans, rocking chairs and an old fashioned swing seat. The grounds around the building will be tastefully landscaped to capture the beauty of the building in the Historic Buschman-Newman District. Gift commitment...\$25,000 ENTRY PORCH AND LANDSCAPING by (Name)

Volunteer Sleeping Rooms

This building will have 9 permanent sleeping rooms for use by volunteers on the second floor plus 2 swing rooms on the first floor that can be used to sleep volunteers or house additional staff as the need dictates. To have a sleeping room named for a corporation, organization, individual or family, the commitment will be a gift of \$20,000. (Name) ROOM

GIFT COMMITMENT SUMMARY

Building Name.....	\$100,000
Kitchen and Dining Area	\$50,000
Administrative Wing, First Floor.....	\$50,000
Gathering and Recreation Room.....	\$25,000
Innkeeper's Suite	\$25,000
Conference and Community Meeting Room,	\$25,000
Second Floor	
Exterior Beautification	\$25,000
<i>(Southern porch and landscaping)</i>	
Volunteer Sleeping Rooms.....	\$20,000 Each

In addition to the naming opportunities, additional gifts will be recognized with plaques bearing the name of the donor placed in the hallway.



R³SM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the Internal Revenue Service. Donor checks should be made payable to R³SM, Inc. and mailed to P.O. Box 1506, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39403.

For additional information about this campaign, please contact: Sheila Varnado, Executive Director or Joe White, Chairman, Board of Directors at (601) 544-5115 or r3smswv@bellsouth.net

VOLUNTEER HOUSE STRATEGIC TIMELINE

2009

- Complete purchase of the Volunteer House, the property at 301 Buschman Street, and prepare for renovation.
- Initiate a campaign to generate \$500,000 to renovate the House.
- Conduct fund-raising activities to supplement the Campaign.

2010

- Completely renovate the first floor of the House and move R³SM's offices to that Administrative Wing of the building.

2011

- Fully renovate the second floor of the House and begin the process of acquiring furnishings and amenities to make it a volunteer residence.

2012

- Begin full use of the Volunteer House.



- Begin an evaluation process focusing on consistently improving the experience of volunteers who reside there and people who are served.

R³SM COMMUNITY IMPACT

July 2006 – Present

- Case managed over 1,000 client families
- Repaired over 350 homes
- Constructed 8 new homes; 4 remaining to be built
- Hosted 1,996 volunteers from throughout the U.S. and Canada
- Volunteer hours equated to \$1.3 million
- Hosted 7 separate AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, 12-15 person teams. Our September 2009 group was the first team from the newly opened Mississippi Campus in Vicksburg.
- Received \$1.12 million in in-kind donations
- Received over \$2 million in grants and donations
- Managed a \$2.6 million FEMA funded case management program
- Purchased 301 Buschman Street for Volunteer Housing Facility in Downtown Hattiesburg.
- Total \$6 million leveraged dollars into the community

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF R³SM, INC.:

*Joe White

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Deborah Gambrell

Vice Chair, Board of Directors
Judge, Justice Court

Barbara Stallcup

Board Secretary
Retiree

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Board Treasurer
Financial Advisor

Charles J. Brown

Board Member
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Mississippi Power Company

*Angie Godwin, Ph.D.

Board Member
Owner, The Depot Coffee House & Sweet Shop
Blooms Florist

Dwayne Higgason

Board Member
Pastor, Grace Temple Ministries

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VP, Economic Development
Area Development Partnership

Archie Morris, II

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Mike Ratliff

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Wachovia Bank
Chair, Fund Raising Committee

*Colonel Sheila W. Varnado

Executive Director
U.S. Army Retired

**Fund Raising Committee*