

# The 1.2.1. Foundation Newsletter

We believe that small things can make a big difference

Please join us at our next event

OCTOBER 2, 2008

For Advance Reservations or more information contact 1.2.1.

info@121-foundation-org  
Or  
408.356.8100 ext 11



John Farley, NBC Channel 11 television, interviews Sister Clarita, who arrived from New Orleans for the fundraiser.

## The difference

Your contribution has made a real difference in real peoples lives. Through your generosity you have become part of the solution. Our fundraiser of October raised the funds needed to match the Marianites monthly budget of \$5,000. 1.2.1. is able to double that fund for emergency assistance through September of 2008. As promised every one of your dollars is going directly to meet emergency housing, medical and living needs for the victims of the Ninth Ward disaster in New Orleans. We want you to know the human needs that you have helped to meet because of your contribution and participation.

### Sister Clarita

Sister Clarita, spokesperson for the Marianities, has kept us regularly informed of the receipt of our monthly funding and the effect it has on their community. While the challenges are at sometimes overwhelming, even to the Marianites, Sister Clarita reports that there is slow progress and some signs of hope that the area will receive the assistance and attention it so desperately needs. In the business of our daily lives it is sometimes easy to forget that the work is far from over and the struggle in New Orleans continues. With that said, our funding has enabled the Marinaites to continue the work that they are so committed to do.

### Families Assisted through December

In a letter from Sister Clarita, she has described some of challenges facing the neighborhood and the help they are able to provide. Clarita writes.

**"Because of the shortage of housing,** an increase in property assessments, and insurance, houses that were renting for \$500-600 per month before Katrina are now priced at \$800-1200 per month. We assisted the following families with rental payments:

- A mother who is only able to work part time because her son has epilepsy.
- A 60-year-old man and his wife. He is a car salesman but he recently had heart failure and is unable to work.
- A young mother with four children. She is working at a fast food restaurant and was recently told that wages would be cut. She told me she could not afford Christmas gifts for her children; I was able to get a gift card for her.
- A young woman who was mugged and robbed immediately after she had cashed her paycheck.

### The cost of utilities has also risen.

Some families had broken pipes; others' power was not turned off for the months while they were living elsewhere so their bills are very high. We assisted the following families with utility payments:

- A 62-year-old grandmother who is a diabetic. She receives \$623 per month in SSI payments.
- A young father with a wife and daughter lost his job. The day after we assisted him he returned to tell me he'd gotten another job.



Larry Gerston, Political Analyst for NBC 11, accepts a Commendation to the 1.2.1. Foundation from the Town of Los Gatos for its efforts to help New Orleans from town Mayor Joe Pierzynski.

- One of the members of our Senior Citizens Club. She is living on \$650 per month. She paid her bills by check but, because of a mix-up at the bank with her account, the checks were rejected and she was charged \$35.00 per check.
- A mother who works in housekeeping in a hotel. Business was very slow so she was not working full-time. She has a daughter and two sons.

Many people have received a Section 8 voucher. HUD is paying their rent each month but does not pay the deposit when they are forced to move. The deposit required is equivalent to a month's rent (usually \$800 to \$1000).

- We assisted a family with two-year-old twins and a four-year-old. The deposit on the house was \$1000. We paid \$300 of that. They managed to borrow the rest.

Some families who are returning to New Orleans have had great difficulty finding enough money to rent a vehicle to transport their furniture.

- We assisted a young woman with two children to rent a vehicle. The cost was \$800. We paid \$300 of that.

We also assist in obtaining medications.

- The physician of an elderly man with a severe back problem had ordered pain medication for him at a nearby drugstore. We paid for the medication."



Guest Terry Hertle from Los Gatos visits with Shea Embry and Kam Mangham, two of several guests who traveled from New Orleans in support of the event.



Med's Mood Swings volunteered the live and swinging New Orleans Jazz throughout the event.

**“We have been able to assist so many people in so many ways.**

**Sometimes I forget how much, with your help, we're helping people”**

**Sr. Clarita**

### **The work continues**

We are proud to be a part of the assistance to New Orleans and it's people who have been so devastated by this disaster and who are still trying to 'come home' after more than two years. We are also pleased with the grass roots work being done each day by the Marianites and we will continue to work with them to ensure that help is getting to the victims. ❄

**1.2.1 is formed on the premise that people want to help people who have suffered catastrophic events. The goal of our totally volunteer staff is to have every donation go directly to fill a human need. No overhead, no bureaucracy, and no waste. One neighbor to one neighbor, hence 1.2.1. Foundation.**