

TRAILER MINISTRY FORGES AHEAD



What started out as a simple idea of a shower trailer for Katrina Gulf Coast volunteers has grown into a major mission outreach of the Presbytery of Charlotte.

On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast of the United States. The **Presbytery of Charlotte Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT)**-part of the Presbytery's Mission and Justice Subcommittee-began to discuss how to best help volunteers and residents along the Mississippi and Louisiana coast. The idea of building a shower-bathroom trailer was born. Since then the CDRT has

- **Finished the trailer** (now in use at the City of D'Iberville, MS volunteer village site until the end of May 2008)
- **Modified a 48 ft trailer** on site into an 8-stall shower trailer for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Volunteer Village in Pearlington, MS
- **Moved a temporarily displaced New Orleans resident's furniture** from Charlotte to New Orleans in a 48 ft trailer, then **donated the trailer** to Presbytery of Mississippi Disaster Recovery
- **Contracted with PDA to convert 2-28 ft trailers into bathroom facilities units**, complete with washers and dryers, for two of their newer New Orleans area volunteer villages. The first will be ready by mid-May 2008 and will be displayed at the May Presbytery meeting at Garden Memorial Church. PDA is covering all costs of this project.
- **Contracted with the Rotary Club of Kannapolis to build a Patient Exam Medical Trailer**, with funds supplied by the club. Currently under construction, this trailer will be completed as the Rotary Club of Kannapolis raises funds this year.
- **Purchased a 5 x 8 ft trailer**, now available for use by Presbytery of Charlotte church mission teams. The inside has been converted to carry a variety of tools needed on mission work trips. Fundraising for the purchase of the needed tools is ongoing. This trailer can easily be converted to carry luggage or other materials.
- **Purchased several used trailers-28 ft and 48 ft-**for multiple uses, including on-site church storage centers for food, clothing, and emergency health kit collection drives.
- **Participated in a unique swap for food program with the International Service of Hope (ISOH)/IMPACT** non-profit organization in Toledo Ohio. CDRT sends donated hospital beds, needed medical supplies and provides them with a trailer and driver at no cost-except for fuel and road tractor rental-to transport food and supplies to the destination of their choice. In return, ISOH/IMPACT has provided CDRT over the last year with 175,000 pounds of food! Of this total, 48,000 pounds were delivered to the Presbytery of Mississippi Disaster Recovery warehouse for distribution along the Gulf Coast- the rest went to food banks in the Charlotte, Concord, Kannapolis, Cabarrus, Montgomery and Richmond County areas of North Carolina.
- **Began a partnership with the national office of the Society of St Andrew (The Gleaners)**, a non-profit interdenominational food ministry, to provide them with the use of one our trailers and a driver at no cost for their food transport needs. All trip expenses, including trailer cab rental, driver overnight accommodations and fuel, will be paid for by their organization.
- **Other-than-food total tonnage hauled in 2007:** 80,000 pounds of medical supplies, 10,000 pounds of household goods, 9,000 pounds of building materials (including 90,000 pounds of freight hauled from ISOH to Mobile for shipment to Belize)

The simple idea of using trailers has become a powerful and fruitful ministry to those in need. Please pray for its continued success, and for the health and safety of all those participating in this important ministry.

For more information about the Community Disaster Response Team, contact Debbie Wilkinson-head of Presbytery's Mission and Justice Committee-at debbie.wilkinson@presbyofcharlotte.org 704 535-999 x213.