



Ministry Update

ISSUE 8
Spring 2011

ECS Mission

ECSLA exists to serve the poor, work for justice, and build the beloved community throughout the Diocese of Louisiana. This mission is carried out by facilitating the church's response to crisis, seeking always to serve the most vulnerable members of our communities. Through this ministry, ECSLA also creates opportunities for service learning and the mutual transformation that occurs when we encounter one another as neighbors. ♦

ECS

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BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.

CHAIR

The Rev. A.J. Heine
St. Augustine's, Metairie, LA

NELL BOLTON

Executive Director

Case Management Initiated at Trinity Church in Morgan City

A central component of Episcopal Community Services' disaster response work has been case management, linking those in need to available resources. Thanks to grant support from Episcopal Relief & Development, we have the opportunity in Morgan City to meet case management needs arising from the BP oil spill while also developing and piloting a model for a community-based case management network. A part-time case manager is being hired in Morgan City to do direct case management services with qualified applicants and to train potential case managers so that the effort can be sustained over the long run. Trinity

Episcopal Church in Morgan City is collaborating with other churches and social services agencies such as St. Mary's Outreach to provide these services.

Our approach to case management is rooted in respect for the dignity of each human person and a willingness to work holistically with those we serve. We also believe that developing community networks and training local leaders is an effective form of disaster preparedness. Our communities' resilience can be strengthened by equipping qualified lay volunteers and nonprofit staff members with the skills and approaches necessary for effective case management. ♦

The 500 Campaign

Episcopal Community Services' goals are to serve the poor, coordinate disaster response and preparation and provide service learning throughout the Diocese. We need your help to cover administrative and operational costs not typically covered by program grants or other available funds. To achieve this, the Episcopal Community Services Board has embarked on the ECSLA 500 Campaign, each ECS Board member asking 25 donors to contribute \$500 a year for two consecutive years in undesignated funds.

Please consider making a pledge to join this campaign. Tax deductible contributions can be made by completing the form below and mailing with your check to ECSLA, 1623 Seventh Street, New Orleans, LA 70115. Credit cards may be used for secure donations by visiting www.ecsla.org.

Your presence, your prayers, and your continued generosity are essential for us to continue to provide care in these difficult economic times. I hope we can look for your generous contribution. ♦

SUPPORTER INFORMATION (Your personal information is kept confidential.)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (HOME) _____ (MOBILE) _____
Email _____

DONATIONS

_____ \$500/year in 2011 and 2012 or a sum of \$ _____ paid MONTHLY QUARTERLY YEARLY equaling \$500

or a repeating donation, as follows:

A sum of \$ _____ paid MONTHLY QUARTERLY YEARLY equaling \$ _____

or a one time donation, as follows:

The amount of \$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____



Students from Alfred State College volunteer with ECSLA.

Disaster Preparedness & Response

Disaster preparedness and response continue to be a large part of the work of ECSLA. Shonda Collins-Smith, vista volunteer working with ecsla this year, is leading the way in implementing a strategic plan that involves building disaster response teams at both the parish and diocesan levels. "These teams will help strengthen parish-based disaster response capacity by allowing us to prepare for anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following a disaster," said Collins-Smith. "Through pre-event planning, teams can work together to help reduce injuries, loss of lives, and property damage."

The plan calls for meeting with the rectors and parish leaders to discuss their disaster preparation and response. "We have gotten great feedback from the parishes visited thus far. Many have taken the opportunity to either update an old disaster plan or create a new more responsive plan that identifies volunteers to check on the shut-in and more vulnerable parishioners in the aftermath of a disaster," explained Collins-Smith. "Creating or updating a plan is not very time consuming, but is a valuable tool in time of crisis."

If you are interested in helping the diocesan team organizing these efforts, please contact Shonda Collins-Smith at 504 895 6634 ext. 206 or at disasterprep@ecsla.org. ♦

ECS Continues to Rebuild Homes with New LHFA Monies

Episcopal Community Services has been helping families displaced by Hurricane Katrina rebuild and return for the past 5½ years. Just this month an elderly couple with serious health problems who have been living in a FEMA trailer for years were able to move to their newly re-done home through this program. The husband praised our rebuilding staff and volunteers, saying, "They are all the most loving and caring people. You can teach skills; you can't teach that. They were wonderful."

Another family now being helped was trapped in their home during the hurricane, having to be evacuated in the midst of the chaos to the Convention Center, then finally to New Mexico, far from family and friends. They remain in New Mexico, continuing to miss New Orleans, as their home is being rebuilt by our own ECSLA corps of volunteers and staff. The Rebuild crew has been working on the house since

October, with assistance from many volunteers such as the ones joining us recently for a six-week period from Alfred State College in New York and with funding provided by the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA). LHFA forms partnerships with many different types of institutions to make housing affordable for Louisiana homeowners and renters via their financial and technical assistance programs. Says Jeff Nagy, Rebuild Manager, "With the help (of both volunteers and LHFA), the team was able to reframe the house, hang and mud sheet rock, and finish up with the flooring. After other work is completed and a permit issued from the city, the house will be ready to become a home again!"

ECSLA would like to thank the LHFA for their financing and all of our volunteers for their time and hard work in helping us rebuild our beloved community! ♦

NOLA Corps May Be the Answer

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

NOLA Service Corps, a member of the national Episcopal Service Corps, is now accepting applications for the 2011–2012 program. The NOLA Service Corps is a rigorous leadership program based on service, spiritual formation, and purposeful living in Christian community. Applicants should be 18–30, and express a desire to serve others, grow their faith, and accept challenges. Interns will serve 40 hours a week at their site placement in addition to completing a curriculum that builds core skills in leadership, spirituality, knowledge of social issues, and in building relationships for the purpose of outreach ministry. The curriculum is composed of speakers, books, discussion and learning about social issues such as poverty, race and socio-economic class. The interns live together in one house and participate in spiritual formation to deepen and their faith. NOLA Service Corps provides housing, utilities, health insurance, grocery stipends, and a \$300 monthly personal stipend.

We are looking for adventurous, passionate people who want to make a difference! Apply now at www.episcopalservicecorps.org, and select NOLA Ser-

vice Corps. For more information, please email the Program Director of the NOLA Service Corps, Pete Nunnally, pnunnally@ecsla.org

LOOKING FOR HELP WITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH/SERVICES?

We are also looking for potential site placements in the greater New Orleans area. If your organization needs extra help, we may be the answer! NOLA Service Corps interns are elite leaders, undergo background checks and complete Safeguarding God's Children training. They receive leadership training and complete a curriculum of education and spiritual formation throughout the year. Site placements must engage the intern in service to those in need in the greater New Orleans community and incorporate the intern into the organization. The cost to the organization is a mere \$9,000 per year.

If you are interested in becoming a site placement for the NOLA Service Corps, please contact the Program Director for NOLA Service Corps, Pete Nunnally at pnunnally@ecsla.org. ♦

Gaudet Grants Approved for 2011 Funding Year

Mrs. Frances Gaudet, a turn of the century educator and activist, was born in a log cabin, the daughter of a former slave. Gaudet earned a national reputation as a prison reformer and missionary. She was a driving force behind the establishment of the first juvenile court in New Orleans. Upon her death, she left a trust to the Diocese of Louisiana to be used for programs benefiting underserved children and families in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. ECSLA, as stewards of this fund, each year award scholarships and grants for the purpose of enhancing the education of African American students. For school year 2010/11, over \$100,000 in scholarships were given. Grants also were giving totaling \$42,500 to the following:

TRINITY EDUCATION ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

\$7500 funds a six-week summer enrichment program for at-risk Orleans Parish school children in grades 5-6. The free program provides both educational and recreational opportunities to these children.

ST. ANNA'S ARTS FOR KIDS

\$8000 supports a year-long program at St. Anna's, New Orleans providing homework assistance, academic drills, reading comprehension, LEAP preparation and language development.

ST. MICHAEL'S & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

\$7500 supports a preschool program for low income families living in the Scotlandville community of Baton Rouge.

JULIEN POYDRAS MUSEUM & ARTS COUNCIL

\$4000 funds a program for children in Pt. Coupee Parish which provides classes in life skills, art, music, creative writing and dance.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

\$7500 helps a five week summer program offered to at-risk 3RD-6TH graders from low income families.

STAIR

\$4000 supports the Start the Adventure in Reading program being newly offered at two Episcopal Churches in the New Orleans area for at-risk, low-performing students in public schools.

CARITAS

\$4000 funds a program providing early learning classes and interpersonal skills for economically disadvantaged children age 2-4 as well as a Summer Experience program for at-risk girls, aged 6-15. ♦

ECSLA Community Dinner Program Continues to Grow

Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana has been responding to the BP oil spill crisis in South Louisiana since shortly after the spill first occurred in 2010. ECS has partnered with Bayou Grace Community Services, Chauvin, in order to deliver services to Terrebonne Parish, an area much underserved in the response effort. Community dinners are being hosted in an ongoing effort to provide fun, food and fellowship in an open, hospitable setting so that educational programs can be presented and news shared. In 2011 these dinners are being funded from the Spirit of Hope grant obtained by ECS from Catholic Charities. Dinner guests are treated to a home-cooked meal prepared by community members in Chauvin, Dulac,

and Montague. ECS staff and volunteers are present to provide pastoral care as needed to distressed residents of these communities. ECS, through another grant with the Gulf Coast Relief Fund, is also contracted with Trinity Counseling and Training Center to provide children's activities at the dinners.

ECSLA hopes to help Gulf Coast residents to "counter the tendency we have in stressful situations to isolate, or pull apart, and instead to come together as a whole," according to Executive Director Nell Bolton, who believes that these dinners help to support community resilience and to foster well-being among the individuals and families who participate. ♦



The Rt. Reverend Morris K. Thompson, Jr. presents Betty Evans with an award upon her retirement.

ECS Honors Betty Evans for 34 Years of Service

On Monday, January 31, 2011 ECSLA and EDOLA recognized Betty Evans for 34 years of service and honored her retirement with a well attended reception.

Betty's friends, family, and coworkers gathered in Christ Church Cathedral to enjoy refreshments and to wish her well as she pursues her new adventures after ECSLA. Betty has served the diocese as a beloved member for over three decades, ending her journey as Executive Assistant for ECSLA. Prior, she had been the Executive Assistant to the Frances Joseph Gaudet Fund.

There were lots of laughs and some tears as retired bishops, administrators and colleagues shared fond memories of Betty. "She has touched many lives during her tenure with the Diocese and ECSLA," said Nell Bolton, Executive Director of ECSLA. Several attendees addressed the crowd, sharing stories about Betty and expressing how valuable her service has been to the growth and development of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. Bishop Morris Thompson presented her with a certificate for her many years of service, and gave her flowers and hugs.

ECSLA would like to wish Betty happiness and abundant grace in the next chapter of her life. We'll miss you, Betty! ♦

Catch up with the NOLA Corps

The NOLA Service Corps is in the middle of a very successful inaugural year! With the help of our outstanding fellows, we've been able to affect positive change in New Orleans through their participation in outreach ministries.

ADRIAN MADRIZ, who was born in New Orleans but grew up in Southern Florida, returned to his hometown this year to join the Corps. Lately, he's been assisting with Thursday lunches at the Chapel of the Holy Comforter, which serves the University of New Orleans Community.

CLAIRE DEBOW, a graduate of Sewanee, has worked in Houston with Christ Church Cathedral's Urban Service Experience, but more recently, is coordinating the Trinity Church's Mobile Loaves and Fishes ministry, providing meals to hundreds of homeless and hungry on the streets.

DENNY SCARIA will be in medical school beginning next August but right now he is working with St. Anna's Medical Mission to provide services and coordinate health fairs. Denny has lived in India, Oman, and the United States.

SARAH MILLER, serving as a project coordinator at All Souls Church, has certainly had her hands busy lately. She has coordinated over 80 Marquette students in a week of projects. Sarah was very excited for the opportunity to live in New Orleans, a city that to her, is "like no other place on Earth."

DAVID MAXSON, who plays the ukulele, made several mission trips to New Orleans before his time with the NOLA Corps. David is working as a Crew Chief with Rebuild, helping displaced New Orleansians return to their homes.

AMANDA LAW, a religious studies graduate from Rhodes College, is interested in issues of social justice, and hopes to work with youth. She, too, is in Rebuild working as a Crew Chief, helping volunteers learn the skills needed to rebuild homes.

SOPHIE DAY has taken a year off from college, where she is double majoring in English and psychology, to come serve in New Orleans. Sophie is a Crew Chief in Rebuild and is enthusiastic about both the families being helped and the volunteers coming in.

When our fellows aren't serving, they are participating in the spiritual and educational components of the program, growing as individuals and strengthening their ability to become community leaders. Already this year, they have read books such as *Living Faith*, by Curtiss Paul DeYoung, as well as books by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, James Martin SJ, and Cornell West. They've been introduced to spiritual practices focused on deepening their prayer life and their lived experience of God. We are so proud of our fellows and the gracious work they are doing in service of the Episcopal Church and the New Orleans community. ♦

ECS Staff

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SHONDA COLLINS
VISTA Volunteer, Disaster Prep & Response

LIZ HAYNES & LORI LAVELLE
Project Accountants

MATT MCDONAGH
Construction Manager

PETE NUNNALLY
NOLA Corps Program Director
Mission & Volunteer Coordinator



Hornets & ECSLA give Christmas to over 100 Children

Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana was proud to partner with the New Orleans Hornets to bring 2010 Christmas cheer to over 100 children and their families. Thanks to a generous ticket-sale match program by the Hornets, in which every ticket purchased by ECSLA donors was matched by a donated seat, ECSLA brought 107 guests to the December 26, 2010 game against the Atlanta Hawks. ♦