

# SHARE THE SPIRIT

**FOUNDATION, INC.**

*a not-for-profit organization*

## NEW ORLEANS

September 22-24, 2006

**Shopping was at the top of our list**

... we hit the ground running when we

located the closest Target and filled our carts with kitchen supplies for our first recipient, Estelle.



**And this is Estelle ...**

with your generous donations, we were able to furnish her entire kitchen, with a new refrigerator, stove, microwave and more!



**Estelle's house was being finished the morning after we arrived**

... we were invited to the dedication ceremony and had the opportunity to meet the pastor and many of the volunteers who helped put the finishing touches on her newly remodeled home.

She and her cousin, Elvie, will live there together.



**Another delightful group we met** included Mary, a retired administrator, who prepared a fabulous meal for our small group. She has opened her home to Sylvia, (another STS recipient) who will live with her until her home is finished later this year. That evening we were able to hear first-hand stories from Sylvia and Randy, a fourth grade teacher, of how Katrina ripped through the area and changed the lives of many families forever.



*"Our mission is to share the burden of providing for those in need."*

**Next we visited Sylvia's neighborhood**

to see the progress being made on her home.

We were shocked to see the entire neighborhood was filled with FEMA trailers and to witness the slow progress being made by those single-handedly trying to rebuild their homes.

We met Sylvia's young neighbor that day and added his family to our list of those we felt compelled to help. His entire family, including his wife and three small children are living in a FEMA trailer while he works daily to make their home liveable again.



**This is the St. Bernard Parish** area where Laura and her teenage boys live. They, along with her sister Pam, young niece and mother will be returning to their homes soon. They lost everything in Katrina. We also added them to the list of STS recipients.



**These are just a few of the homes**

we found to be the most shocking. The bottom photo shows the markings made by the national guard troops and volunteers who searched the homes for



victims. We were told that the symbols refer to the number of occupants, date searched, gas and utility information.



We are planning to return to the area after the first of the year to revisit the five families we met and see how they are doing.

**Thank you once again for helping to share the burden ...**

