Resource Guide

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TX

LTRC, Citizens Organization for Rita Relief (CORR)

Info/Hotline · Open

Disaster Recovery

Jasper & Newton Counties, TX

Phone 409–379–4663 / (409) 379–3590
Serves Jasper & Newton Counties, Tx
Service Temporary

Jasper/Newton aid group formed

November 28, 2005

Citizens Organized for Rita Relief (CORR) held their second organizational meeting November 22, 2005 in the conference room of Believers New Life Ministries International in Bleakwood. This group of local pastors, non–profit organizations, public officials and school administrators has formed to coordinate a united and dedicated coalition to provide a central point of intake and referral for people who suffered damage as a result of Hurricane Rita. CORR will provide focus and generate support of local agencies to provide housing, health care, and other services necessary to recover from the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

CORR has established an intake center at 107 Court Street in downtown Newton. People who have needs that will not be covered by insurance or FEMA should call (409) 379–4663 or come by the office of Self Help Housing of East Texas to apply for assistance. They will open a second office in Kirbyville in the near future for Jasper residents.

CORR will solicit funds and support from private foundations, corporate donors, and private individuals, to support the efforts of the Mennonite volunteers and other groups who will help repair and rebuild damaged homes. They will also make referrals to East Texas Health Access Network for medical care.

CORR will address the UNMET needs of citizens of Newton and Jasper County. If you have resources available to meet your needs, please do not apply.

The Board of Directors of CORR consists of: Associate Pastor Alton Scott, Rev. Ted Williams, Lee Holbert, Rev. L.D. Matthews, Rev. Joe Miller, Linda Dickerson, Commissioner Willie Stark, and Superintendent Gene Isabell.

For more information contact Kim at 379–4663

ARTICLE FROM The Jasper Newsboy dated 3/8/06:

'This recovery is our business'
CORR helping area fill needs unmet by federal, state funds
By JIMMY GALVAN Managing Editor

On Sept. 23, 2005, Hurricane Rita cut a path through Jasper and Newton counties.

Almost immediately, a need to organize aid was recognized for the victims of the "forgotten hurricane."

Citizens Organized for Rita Restoration (CORR) stepped up to fill that need.

CORR is a faith–based, non–profit organization that is trying to facilitate recovery efforts in the two counties.

"Our goal is to partner with anybody and everybody," said CORR Executive Director Lee Holbert. "We want to make sure no one falls through the cracks."

Holbert said the group gains a number of intakes weekly and tracks any money the applicants receive, either from insurance or federal aid.

"We document if there are needs that are unmet from outside sources," Holbert said. "We try to find a way to fulfill and meet those needs."

CORR operates to assist the elderly, disabled, underprivileged, poor and the victims of discrimination and alienation. CORR exists to assist those who are unable to help themselves recover f rom the devastation of Hurricane Rita.

Holbert said after the storm hit he waited for organization of relief efforts but it became apparent that the federal aid was not going to meet the area's needs.

" We got involved with Church World Services and they told us to form a longterm recovery committee," Holbert said.

To accomplish these purposes, CORR acts as an u m b rella board, providing coordination, networking, guidance and leadership to local non–profits, governmental units, disaster relief organization, and individuals working to maximize the use of scarce resources in the recovery.

" We just knew a lot of people were hurting and needed a lot of help here , " Holbert said.

So far, CORR has completed work in Newton County and has yet to start any projects in Jasper County.

Originally, CORR received manpower donation from the Mennonite Church out of
Arkansas .

"They stayed at the Baptist Encampment in Newton and provided all of the labor for projects in Newton," Holbert said. "Right now, we don't have any resources in Jasper County."

Holbert explained that Newton County used its unmet needs allocation money from the state to purchase materials for CORR projects.

" We didn't have either of those re s o u rces in Jasper County," Holbert said. "We have active cases in Jasper but we don't have any resources in Jasper County."

One change for the county comes in the form of $2.5 million grant from the people of Saudi Arabia that will be administered by the Deep East Texas Council of Governments.

" We now will have money for materials but no labor," Holbert said. "We have many connections with labor and volunteers so we should be able to funnel some of these groups in Jasper and Newton to begin these pro j e c t s . "

Holbert said CORR would like to see human resources donations made to their cause.

"I would to see churc h e s and the Lions Clubs, the chambers organize work groups to help out," Holbert said. "There are a lot of people in Jasper County whose lives are back to normal, the hurricane is over for them.

"But a lot of their neighbors still have leaky ro o f s and are still putting buckets out when it rains," Holbert said.

Holbert said the majority of the volunteer work done on projects has come fro m outside sourc e s .

" We are a community that should serve each other," Holbert said. "God calls on us to love one another and serve our brothers and sisters."

Holbert said the first hurdle of emergency relief has been completed for these two counties.

" However, there are many people who do not have the resources to re c o ver from the damage that has been done," Holbert said. "Many people were alre a d y below or barely above the poverty level prior to Rita's landfall, and their primary residences have been completely destroyed or rend e red uninhabitable. People who have exhausted all other help and means such as private insurance, governmental state and federal programs, and personal savings will be able to apply for help from CORR."

CORR will coordinate the case work and subsequent determination of needs and the allocation of material and human re s o u rces to accomplish the rebuilding of human dwellings and lives.

Anyone needing aid can contact CORR at (409) 3793590.

Tax free donations can be made out to CORR and sent to CORR's office in Newton. Holbert said an office in the Kirbyville area is in the process of being opened.

"This recovery is our business," Holbert said. "We can't rely on people fro m outside to come in and fix us. I hope that people have learned that the government can't do everything and that they shouldn't look to the government for everything.

"When there is a need, we turn to our neighbor for help," Holbert said. "We have seen the government doesn't do a very good job at helping us in a time a crisis. We have to take care of our own and we are well able to do that."

Services offered: Assistance, Referrals * General Information & Referral; Case Management, Disabled/Handicapped; Case Management, Hurricane Survivors; Case Management, * (Providers of ANY Type of Case Management); Case Management, Seniors/Elders; Construction, Rebuilding, Volunteer Services
Campaigns: 2005 Hurricane Rita; CWS ~ Church World Service; LTRC, Long Term Recovery Committee; Mennonite Disaster Service
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