



Shrinking time between disaster and recovery.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coalition of Organizations and Nonprofits to Kickoff Rebuilding in South Louisiana

SBP to host “kick off build” with Baton Rouge-area nonprofits. Event to serve as jump off point for coordinated rebuilding effort across South Louisiana, ensuring a prompt, efficient and predictable recovery for homeowners impacted by flood

When: Tuesday, September 6th

Time: 8:30am - 4:30pm CST

Where: 10257 Moss Lea Drive, Central, Louisiana - home of disabled Vietnam veteran and his wife

What: Volunteers will start “putting up walls” at the flood damaged home

Who: Area organizations to be joined by Louisiana Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser and New Orleans Mayor, Mitch Landrieu, who will both volunteer

Media & Press: Welcomed from 10am - 4:30pm

Baton Rouge, Louisiana - September 2, 2016 - A group of Louisiana organizations and nonprofits have joined forces, forming a coalition to pool resources in order to help flood-impacted homeowners in South Louisiana finish gutting their homes, and to ensure a prompt and efficient rebuilding effort across the region thereafter. The group will kick off their collaboration on Tuesday, September 6th by beginning to rebuild the damaged home of a disabled Vietnam Veteran and his wife in Central, Louisiana.

The group, convened by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, is comprised of, SBP; Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge; Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge; Together Baton Rouge; HOPE Ministries; AARP; Mid-City Redevelopment, Presbytery of South Louisiana and AmeriCorps.

[SBP](#), which was founded in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and has a decade of experience rebuilding in seven states after major disasters, will work to increase the capacity and capability of other member organizations by training the groups in its proven effective model of rebuilding, which is based on the Toyota Production System (TPS).

SBP’s CEO, Zack Rosenberg said of the initiative, “This is about capacity building and the utilization of best practices in order to generate the greatest impact possible. The ultimate goal here is to bring more families home, sooner. It doesn’t matter which t-shirt your rebuilding



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group is wearing. It's not going to matter to homeowners. They just want to have a predictable path home. By sharing SBP's model - a model we've seen work across the country - with other groups, our coalition will be able to fan out across South Louisiana and bring not just hope, but real results to flood impacted homeowners."

On Tuesday, representatives and volunteers from the coalition member organizations will gather at a flood-damaged home in Central, Louisiana to begin rebuilding for a disabled Vietnam veteran and his wife. The event will mark the first rebuilding project begun by area nonprofits since mid-August flooding devastated more than 60,000 homes across the state. The groups on Tuesday will be providing and sharing their resources with one another - from boxed lunches for all participants provided by AARP, to tools and insulation provided by Habitat for Humanity, to tents and drinks provided by Mid-City Redevelopment. Over the course of the initiative, the groups will share tools, training, lessons learned and best practices - all in an effort to shrink the time between this flood and the region's recovery.

Louisiana Lieutenant Governor, Billy Nungesser and New Orleans Mayor, Mitch Landrieu, will both participate as volunteers in the rebuild on Tuesday. Encouraging New Orleanians to *lean forward* to help those who helped New Orleans during Katrina, Mayor Landrieu said, "The people of New Orleans know what it's like to suffer through a disaster. We remember all of those who helped us when we needed it most, so it is important to support our neighboring communities as they begin to recover and rebuild. I am grateful for SBP and other organizations that are bringing people and resources together to make a difference. "

Lieutenant Governor, Billy Nungesser added, "Our culture is deeper than these floodwaters. We will rebuild. We will recover. The work done by countless rebuilding organizations, like SBP, is critical to getting our residents back in their homes and on the way to rebuilding their lives."

At this time, all rebuilding groups are encouraging homeowners to submit rebuilding requests to <http://gutcheckla.com>. Homeowners can request assistance gutting their homes via this site as well. When coalition groups are ready to start rebuilding, they will pull clients from this site and contact them directly.

SBP is seeking contributions to fund the next series of homes to be rebuilt. Individual and group contributions can be made by visiting bit.ly/SBPSOLA.

To sponsor a home, at the cost of \$25,000, please contact SBP's Development Director at (504) 616-0140

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About SBP

SBP's mission is to shrink time between disaster and recovery. Since its founding in 2006 in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, SBP has rebuilt homes for more than 1,150 families with the help of 150,000 volunteers in New Orleans; Joplin, MO; Staten Island, NY; Rockaway, NY; Monmouth and Ocean Counties, NJ; San Marcos, TX; Columbia, SC and White Sulphur Springs, WV.

SBP's model is enhanced by AmeriCorps, which provides 140 members annually to manage worksites and clients, and train the organization's volunteers nationally.

Through its Disaster Resilience and Recovery Lab (DRRL), SBP works to share lessons learned, prevent common barriers to recovery and help communities utilize SBP's standardized, repeatable and proven-effective model.

SBP shrinks time between disaster and recovery via five interventions:

- 1) **Build** innovatively, driving efficiency
- 2) **Share** SBP's proven effective model with other organizations to increase efficacy across the disaster rebuilding sector
- 3) **Train** home and business owners in resilience and risk mitigation prior to disaster
- 4) **Advise** local and state government officials so they can deploy federal dollars sooner, and in a way that empowers an efficient recovery
- 5) **Advocate** so that what is measured is what matters – a complete recovery

To learn more, visit www.SBPUSA.org and like/follow on Facebook & Twitter @SBPUSA

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