

October 2017



Dear Friends and Family,

It has been over 12 years since Hurricane Katrina, the largest natural disaster in our nation's history claiming over 1,800 lives. It was this disaster that brought many of us to the Gulf Coast to help with relief efforts. Out of those efforts, lasting relationships were formed and an annual Thanksgiving outreach was birthed. This year marks the eleventh year of Family Serve's Thanksgiving outreach. This year's devastating hurricane season has again ravaged communities and affected so many people. We leave November 17, 2017, and plan to stop in the Houston area to bring blessing food bags to a community affected by hurricane Harvey on our way to serve in the 9th/Lower 9th Ward.



With your support, last year we loaded the RV with bags of food, and drove 1,800 miles to New Orleans. Once again the Lord guided each step and did things we did not expect. [Yes, we did get another flat tire!] As we look back on the week, we were able to distribute over twenty large bags of food donated by City Tree Christian School to specific families we were able to minister to; with your donations. We also helped House of Hope Fellowship distribute 100 turkeys and bags of groceries to single mothers and seniors; and we spent three days at the "Love in Action" food bank, helping Ms. Gail and her volunteer team distribute food to over 250 families each day. The day before Thanksgiving we hosted a carnival for the families at "Love in Action" and invited many in the food lines to join us for Thanksgiving dinner at the diner the following day. And, they did! One mom, Iesha (above) brought her four children and was so excited that she had somewhere to go for Thanksgiving. She helped us the entire day.

Most special was the fact that this year, the community rallied and the "ten year club" put on the entire meal in the 9th Ward-cooking, cleaning and serving! What a joy to see how the community has owned the meal and now are the main source of volunteers to feed over 250 people. We distributed over 65 "I Love 9th W" shirts, made by a local man who grew up in the projects. It is amazing to see what the community can do with a little extra support from people like yourselves. God is so good and the family of Christ grows in number each year we return. Marilyn and Jennifer were also able to serve there again in April of this year.

Serving in New Orleans strengthens our faith as we serve with those who have overcome much. This year, after we stop in Houston, we will continue on to NOLA to serve the new community housing near the House of Hope Fellowship—housing that took 10 years to rebuild! We will keep busy each day serving at "Love in Action" food bank and we will prepare and serve Thanksgiving dinner in the Lower 9th Ward with community volunteers. We will host two carnivals this year—one at the food bank and one on Thanksgiving. We will distribute sporting equipment to the local children via a sports outreach at Bunnyfriend Park. We are excited to share the gospel at each event that we participate in.

We remain focused on building up this community through families, food, fellowship and HIS FIERCE LOVE. He has and will continue to still the roaring waves in our lives and we want to continue to share this truth with this community. We ask that you prayerfully consider being a part of this Thanksgiving outreach. We will gladly accept donations of gift cards (e.g. Sam's Clubs and Wal-mart), nonperishable food items, footballs/basketballs/jump ropes, bubbles, Bibles and/or monetary donations. All donations are tax deductible



and checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church, San Diego and sent to the McCain Family at 218 W. Avenida Gaviota, San Diego, CA 92672. [Yes, we moved!] You may also donate online at www.fpcsd.org click on "Donate" and indicate "New Orleans Mission Trip 2017" under note. ALL of the money will be used for meals, food, children's activities and a love offerings for "Love in Action" Food Bank and House of Hope Fellowship. (Each year, we fully fund our own travel and lodging expenses.)

Many of you have faithfully supported this community since Hurricane Katrina. We thank the Lord for your steadfast love and faithfulness each year. We are grateful.

It is well with our souls,
The McCain Family/Family Serve



"You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hopes of all the ends of the earth, and of the farthest seas, who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy." Psalm 65:5-8