

Katrina Corner

A quick update as I have just returned from two weeks on the Mississippi gulf coast. There have been reports of misuse of funds by an organization called Camp Coastal Outpost, which is also involved in the rebuilding efforts in MS and LA. Unfortunately, the name is so similar to Camp Coast Care (CCC) that even news reporters interchange parts of the names of each, so that many have contacted CCC with concerns. As you might well imagine, this could have a negative impact on the numbers of volunteers. In spite of this, CCC is still very active in rebuilding, and is tops in obtaining grants through its coordinated case management system.

Top priority by case management is given to the elderly, disabled, and single moms. I worked at four different homes: one, an elderly couple who have been rebuilding their home for two years and need extra hands to get it done; another, a man on disability, also rebuilding for more than two years with the intermittent help of two sons; the third, a single mom who has taken in other children; and the fourth, a wheelchair-bound woman with MS.

As for the general recovery along the Gulf Coast over the three months since I made my previous trip, I saw many, many more homes and apartments completed as I drove along the coast highway. The beach is being renovated and expanded. Activities are returning; one CCC staff member entered her dog in a weiner dog race. However, the western side of the town of Gulfport (where the airport is located) does not yet have a permanent sewer system! Many empty foundations are visible within ¼ mile of the beach. How many represent lives lost, we don't know.

In His service, Janet Merritt