



NEWS RELEASE



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LOWER 9TH WARD COMMUNITY CENTER & FAIR HOUSING CENTER HOLD "WHERE'S YOUR NEIGHBOR" RESOURCE FAIR

On Saturday, May 16th from 1-4 PM the Lower 9th Ward Village and the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) will hold the "Where's Your Neighbor" Community Resource Fair at the Lower 9th Ward Village - 1001 Charbonnet St. The fair will feature food, music and tabling by organizations that provide services to older people and people with disabilities. GNOFHAC staff will provide information on free counseling services available to homeowners as well as fair housing protections for people with disabilities.

At the resource fair, Lower 9th Ward Village Executive Director Ward "Mack" McClendon will announce plans for the "Where's Your Neighbor?" program, which seeks to develop a grassroots, community-led strategy for facilitating the return of residents still displaced from their Lower 9th Ward homes by Hurricane Katrina. The Lower 9th Ward Village is especially interested in reaching out to displaced elderly residents and residents with disabilities. Initial stages of the program will feature a public mural that combines new and existing data about displaced Lower 9th Ward residents into a comprehensive map of the Katrina diaspora. The map will be a shared resource that rebuilding organizations can use to target areas of greatest need.

The Village is committed to developing programs that provide ongoing support and services to elderly neighbors and those with disabilities in the Lower 9th Ward. Mr. McClendon says, "Before the storm more than half of Lower 9th Ward homeowners were seniors. A very small percentage of those have been able to return. I believe that if we come together as a community, we can change that."

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The Lower 9th Ward Village is a community-driven, community-led, nonprofit based in the Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans, Louisiana. The main goal of the Village is to bring together the entire Lower 9th Ward and to empower community members to be self-sufficient and to sustain an equitable quality of life. The Village focuses on connecting the elderly and youth with services and providing care and guidance from the community as a whole. (It takes a village...)

The Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) is a private non-profit organization. The Center was established by a group of concerned New Orleanians in 1995 with the help of the National Fair Housing Alliance and a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. GNOFHAC is dedicated to eliminating housing discrimination and furthering equal housing opportunities through education, outreach, advocacy, and enforcement of fair housing laws across the metro New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas.

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