

<www.actionpact.com>

<www.culturechangenow.com>

Louisiana Culture Changing Homes Need Your Help in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina

As the images and testimonies of Hurricane Katrina's victims come to us, filtered through our television, radio and friends, the whole world is wondering, "What can we do to help?"

The Action Pact community has a special opportunity to help. Fellow nursing homes have been affected by the tragedy. Frail residents have been displaced to nursing homes that are now overcrowded and desperate for staff and goods. The residents have no personal money with them and the government is unable to fund them at this point. Many of the homes don't even know who these residents are.

Louisiana clients of Action Pact are asking for help. One is a small, family run center that is taking in residents and supporting them out of their own pockets. Their greatest need at the moment is for social workers.

"My greatest concern for these individuals is about their psycho-social needs," says one of the owners. "We do not have any trained social workers. These individuals came with no paper work, no charts, no nurse's notes, etc. We are starting from scratch. We cannot contact most of their families."

All available healthcare workers and social workers in the area are committed to other volunteer activities. Help is needed from outside the area.

While social workers, or those who know how to work through bureaucratic procedure, are necessary, any other staff is useful. Housekeeping and activities staff specifically, however any extra pair of hands will be helpful.

Other immediate needs include disposable briefs and cigarettes, since the victims have no personal money to spend on these items. Most, if not all, of the new residents are Catholic. This nursing home has never had a Catholic mass before but was fortunate to be visited by two Catholic priests. They will celebrate their first Mass on Saturday. They hope that the Catholic community will reach out to their frail elders to help.

If you can help by sending staff, disposable briefs or cigarettes, or any supplies, or are interested in helping sponsor volunteers who are willing to go to Louisiana to work in a facility but need the means to get there, please contact us at office@actionpact.com with the subject line "Louisiana."



Requests from Nursing homes In Louisiana:

- Social workers
- Housekeeping
- Activities Staff
- Any other volunteers
- Cigarettes
- Disposable briefs
- Food
- Bingo prizes
- Catholic items
- Sponsors for volunteers' travel

The Pioneer Exchange

<<http://www.pioneerexchange.org/>>

The culture change movement is growing by leaps and bounds on the web.

The Pioneer Exchange is a new collaborative "blog" where each user can compose her own culture change "diaries." The roster of "front-page posters" will evolve over time, depending on who wants to be involved (it could very easily be you reading this!)

National leaders in the field (direct care workers, managers, academics,

policy folks) have agreed to make regular contributions. Those contributions will highlight the fact that the Pioneer Exchange is not about any single person or particular model of culture change.

All of us in the relatively small long-term care community have an opportunity to "get on the same page" (virtually) when it comes to culture change.

Please visit and join in the discussion and exchange of ideas.