



City of Slidell

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Cultural and Public Affairs ♦ 444 Erlanger Street ♦ Slidell, LA 70458

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For more information, call 985-646-4381

Zanesville, OH Sends Help to Slidell

Located 70 miles east of Columbus, Ohio, the small town of Zanesville is a long way from Slidell, Louisiana. However, the citizens of Zanesville have found a connection with our town and have dedicated themselves to help in Slidell's recovery from Hurricane Katrina.



City officials from Zanesville visited Slidell in early October to witness the devastation caused by the storm. They met with Slidell officials and business owners asking what they could do to help with our recovery. As a result, the city of Zanesville has been sending teams of skilled workers and equipment to assist citizens and businesses with their clean up efforts.

The first team to arrive in Slidell was put to work removing fallen trees and debris in Greenwood Cemetery and the fields at Veterans Park. Another team headed to the Slidell Chamber of Commerce building to begin fixing their heavily damaged roof. They have also helped residents clean out their flooded and damaged homes. Zanesville will continue to send teams of workers to Slidell for the next two weeks.

“I cannot express in words Slidell’s gratitude to these volunteers,” stated Bob Dunbar, Slidell Airport Manager. “They have sent us skilled laborers with much needed equipment. They just ask what’s next and then they go out and fix it. These people are taking their own vacation time and spending it here in Slidell. They work from sun-up to sun-down and live out of tents at night. They are committed to getting Slidell back up and running.”

Slidell residents and businesses have embraced these workers from Zanesville, as they provide hot meals and gratitude for the volunteers. “We never expected the kind of warm response we received from Slidell,” said Zanesville Mayor Howard “Butch” Zwelling. “They have opened their arms to us. That has made our efforts in Slidell so special for all of us back in Zanesville.”