



The NGPA delegation toured parts of the Crescent City devastated by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. The theme of the tour seemed to be, “we’re coming back”. Delegates saw block after block in the Ninth Ward where evidence of residents escaping the flood waters through their roofs still remain. Kodak, a NGPA sponsor, contributed \$75,000 to the New Orleans Habitat for Humanity to build a new home in one of the affected neighborhood. NGPA members made a contribution to the rebuilding efforts during the tour. NGPA conference delegates are seen here with the Co-Director of Development for the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity, Gina Stilp on the front porch and steps of the new home that is under construction.

Much of New Orleans is still below sea level making the levees the “protector” of the city from winds and waters of hurricanes. On August 29th, 2005, Katrina roared through the Gulf of Mexico hitting New Orleans head on causing those levees to fail. Most of the city of New Orleans and surrounding areas were left in ruins. NGPA conference delegates got to experience the re-Birth of the Big Easy. Here, NGPA president Richard Hiatt is seen with Gina Stilp, the Habitat for Humanity Co-Director of Development for the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity.



A foundation founded by Brad Pitt is responsible for the rebuilding of a number of homes in the Ninth Ward. Just behind these two new structures you will see the lake and the levee that caused the devastation to thousands of families in the area. The new homes are designed to be energy efficient and some are built above what is hoped to be the next flood level. Because of the energy efficient design of some of the new homes, utility bills have gone from \$350 to \$35 per month. Solar energy is being utilized in some of the designs. Water is collected through the driveways and sidewalks and is then

used to irrigate the small garden. Lots are narrow in the Ninth Ward where the original homes were two-unit shotgun style homes pre-Katrina. After the Rebuilding of New Orleans tour it is evident that much has been done during the past four years, however, much is left to be done.