

## National News:

### Choice Hotels finds "Room to Rebuild" - Choice Hotels Selects Rebuilding Together as Signature Cause

After an extensive search process, Choice Hotels International, Inc. (NYSE: CHH) announced the selection of Rebuilding Together as its signature cause partner. The announcement was made yesterday at the Choice Hotels International 55th Annual Convention at the Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center. As signature cause partner, Rebuilding Together will play a key role in the corporate social responsibility efforts of Choice Hotels as overseen by the Choice Hotels International Foundation. The Foundation's efforts are focused on giving through direct financial contribution and volunteer activities with organizations that support food, clothing, shelter, education, travel and tourism.

The program named "Room to Rebuild" is part of Choice Hotels ongoing commitment to strengthen the local communities in which their associates and franchisees live, work and provide hospitality. The unanimous decision came after a careful selection process that included consultation and guidance from the company's franchisees and associates.



## Our Impact in Calcasieu Parish:

Homes served to date since 2005:

225

Homes served in 2009 to date:

60

Number of projects in 2009 to date:

61

Projected number of homes in 2009:

61

Volunteers to date since 2005:

1894

Number of volunteers in 2009 to date:

429

Projected number of volunteers in 2009:

432

Total labor donated to date:

\$ 242,541.49

*And we aren't finished yet!*



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## OUR VISION

*A safe, secure and weatherproof home for every person.*

## OUR MISSION

*"Bringing volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners."*

**If you would like to donate or get involved please contact us at the information provided.**

## HOW TO CONTACT US

Rebuilding Together-Calcasieu  
P.O. Box 3758  
Lake Charles, LA 70602

**337.433.1755**  
[www.rtcalsasieu.org](http://www.rtcalsasieu.org)

# On the BLOCK

News from Rebuilding Together Calcasieu • 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER, 2009

## 2009 Law Enforcement Build:

### To Serve and Rebuild

Multiple law enforcement agencies from local, parish and state levels collaborated to repair seven sites throughout Calcasieu parish. This annual build took place October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Teams of volunteers made repairs to the interior and exterior of several homes. Some repairs focused on making homes a safe and secure place to live. These repairs included installing grab bars and locks, repairing broken doors, trimming bushes and adding lighting. Other repairs included: a renovated kitchen, energy efficacy upgrades, paint, clearing clutter and removal/repair of wood siding. One team demolished a condemned home.

Each repair contributed to increasing the safety of the homeowner and/or neighborhood. Contributing agencies included: Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, Iowa Police Department, Lake Charles Police Department, Louisiana State Police -

Troop D, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries and Sulphur Police Department.



Last year's winner of "Point to the Plaque" **Sulphur Police Department.**

Congratulations and a job well done to all participating agencies.

## Get Involved with Our Community Programs



### Fundraiser Hosted By RAY GYMS.

Ray Gyms will host a dance and cheer work shop on December 19<sup>th</sup> to benefit Rebuilding Together - Calcasieu and its mission. Girls ages 4 – 12 are invited to participate. Each participant will receive a t-shirt, lunch, and instruction. Cost is \$20 plus an unwrapped gift that will be donated to a needy family in the area. For more information contact Ray Gyms at 337.477.3733

### National Rebuilding Day – April 24, 2010

National Rebuilding Day is our signature annual event in which RT-Calcasieu will join 200+ affiliates nationwide to rehab homes.

### Heroes At Home – 2010

This event seeks to assist Veterans with home repair needs. Many of the repairs made on this day increase accessibility for homeowners.

## President's Message



As President of the Board of Directors, it is my honor and privilege to salute two of the Power Partners in Rebuilding Together Calcasieu's mission to secure safe and healthy homes for Calcasieu Parish homeowners. Since 1992, our organization has coordinated local sponsors and volunteers to rehabilitate homes for low-income, elderly and disabled residents. As we continue to forge partnerships between gracious sponsors such as Conoco Phillips and our big-hearted (and extremely skilled!) volunteers from several local law enforcement agencies, we are proud to showcase the immeasurable direct impact to the lives of seven very grateful homeowners in this issue of our newsletter.

Conoco Phillips has long been a leader in community service and our law enforcement agencies are truly dedicated to serving the public, not only with protection but also with compassionate action to make life better in Calcasieu Parish. We appreciate the monetary and volunteer contributions which allow RTC to rehabilitate local homes to make them safe, secure and weatherproof. The list of homeowners in need of assistance is endless, and we desperately need more sponsors and more volunteers.

The work of Rebuilding Together is so gratifying. You can see the difference in the home immediately but more importantly you can see the difference in the homeOWNER. Their tears of joy will touch your heart. Will you join us in making a difference today?

Sincerely,  
Melody Jackson

(Personal contributions are welcome too! Please visit [www.rtcacaleu.org](http://www.rtcacaleu.org) to learn more.)

## Upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:

### Hosted by: The Landing

The Landing at Contraband will host an appreciation dinner for volunteers that participated in our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Rebuilding Event.

Thank you to Josh Rogers and his team for providing this wonderful "Thank you" dinner for our volunteers. "I am very proud to be a part of what is happening here. These men and women are doing

amazing things in our community"  
-Josh Rogers



1103 West Prien Lake Road  
Lake Charles, LA 70605  
337.478.7795

## Thank You to our 2009 Sponsors:

Alfred Palma Inc.	Henning Methodist Church	Sasol North America
American Press	Iowa Police Department	Sears/K-Mart
Best Buy	Jeff Davis Bank	Signs Now
Calcasieu Parish Police Jury	JimBill Disposal	South Lake Charles Kiwanis
Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office	Kjon	State Farm Insurance
Capital One	KPLC	Stine Lumber
Catholic Charities	Lake Charles Police Department	Sulphur Kiwanis
City of Lake Charles	Lamar Advertising	Sulphur Police Department
Coca Cola Lake Charles	Louisiana State Police Troop D	The Lagniappe
Conoco Phillips	Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries	The Landing at Contraband
Cricket Communications	McNeese Athletics	Trinity Baptist Church
Entergy	Pistol's Plumbing	USDA
Gap Broadcasting	Providence Engineering	Westlake Kiwanis
	Rebuilding Together National	Whitney National Bank

We look forward to your continued support in 2010!

## Local News:

### RT-Calcasieu Receives Large Donation



Rebuilding Together-Calcasieu was recently presented a \$26,300 donation by Conoco Phillips. The funds are to be used to rebuild homes through Calcasieu Parish. These repairs are done at no cost to the homeowner. The donation was received on September 30, 2009.

Thank you, ConocoPhillips!

## Local Project: The Meche Family

Brian Meche was an officer with the Iowa Police Department when, in 2006, he decided to enlist in the US Army Reserves. In 2008 Brian was deployed to Iraq where he served for one year. When he returned from active duty, he continued to serve our community by re-joining the Iowa Police Department.



Sadly, three months ago, while helping his mother install a flag pole in her yard he was electrocuted and died. He left behind a fiancée, Ms. Kyra McDough and soon-to-be-born baby boy, Brain Lee Meche, II.

Before Brian died he had begun making repairs to his home in expectation of his new baby. Many of these repairs were still incomplete. Luckily his friends, co-workers and family stepped –up to help finish the job.



Partnering with Rebuilding Together – Calcasieu, the Iowa Police Department was able to pick up where Brian left off and insure that his family would have a safe, secure, and weatherproof environment to live in.

"Brian was always helping people make repairs to their homes and it was a great way for us to give something back to him and his memory." – Officer Annette Jordan, Iowa Police Department.

The repair work included renovation of the kitchen and installation of new cabinets and doors, and painting the interior of the home.

## Statistics



- **Rebuild 1,000** is Rebuilding Together's national initiative to rebuild 1,000 homes in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Over 500 have been rebuilt thus far.
- **Low-income households** spend an average 14% of their income on energy, versus 3.5% in most other households.
- **Americans** spend approximately \$115 billion a year on home utility bills.
- **Ninety percent** of low-income families in the US have annual incomes of less than \$15,000
- **4,377 is the number of disabled elderly** currently living in Calcasieu Parish.
- **19.6% of Calcasieu residents** are living below the poverty line.

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