



## LOUISIANA'S UNSUNG HEROES

This is a collection of stories designed to engage, inspire and transform readers as well as survivors of Hurricane Katrina. These stories, told by *Louisiana Spirit* and *Options for Independence* staff, as well as the heroes themselves, promote positive feelings, instill confidence, give direction and hope. The stories provide a wealth of knowledge of the work done by many in the aftermath of the hurricane.

We realize that the stories within this document represent only a small segment of the hundreds, and probably thousands of "Unsung Heroes" that could have been featured. The strength of our humanity and care for each other is continually expressed through the efforts of everyone as we recover, rebuild and move forward in the aftermath Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Please enjoy the stories of Louisiana's Unsung Heroes. Each is a story of hope and determination. Individuals from Louisiana and throughout the United States recognized people with needs and reached out with a helping hand. These are stories of deeds large and small, all of which celebrate the power and dignity of simply caring for each other.

The individuals featured in this publication don't consider themselves heroic, but instead insist they simply are everyday people who acted without thinking or knowing who was watching their actions. The "Unsung Heroes" were not looking for recognition for their works, but these are the people who make up **Louisiana's "Human" Spirit**.

**IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY  
OF HURRICANE KATRINA AND HURRICANE RITA  
AUGUST 2007**



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A licensed Professional Counselor at SOHO Parenting in New York City, Lisa came to Louisiana to help volunteer with the Bayou Area Habitat for Humanity to help build homes for hurricane-affected families. While volunteering she met several families and observed the need for ongoing Mental Health Assistance for families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Through SOHO Parenting, they donated money to provide therapeutic recreational services in the Habitat for Humanity Bayou Area Bon Jovi Community.

Lisa left and returned in November 2006 and provided free short term counseling to families with children.