

Partner Churches

- FUMC Rosenberg
- E. Bernard UMC
- Mission Bend UMC
- St. John's UMC
- Faith UMC
- Christ Church, Sugar Land
- FUMC Missouri City
- FUMC Anahuac

Work Trip Dates

August 15
September 12
October 17

Visit us at

acomeback.org

Anahuac Comeback is a ministry of First United Methodist Church of Rosenberg, TX, Reverend John Black, Senior Pastor. For more information access our site: acomeback.org or email Margaret Lawley at molawley@yahoo.com

ANAHUAC COMEBACK Hurricane Relief Project

August 1, 2009

The Benefits of Joining a Work Crew -by Margaret Lawley

Internet wisdom may be an oxymoron, but an article online caught my eye. The writer claimed that people volunteer when they are given the answer to the simple question: "What's in it for me?" I would hate for people not to sign up because they can't think of any personal benefit. So here's a list of reasons for leaving Saturday morning routines and coming with us to Anahuac.

Enjoy a gorgeous Saturday morning **sunrise** and the **coolest** part of the day. McDonalds will serve you an **Egg McMuffin** and **hash browns** for breakfast. The amazing drive features **no traffic** on I-10 or Hwy 59, a rare pleasure indeed. TX 61 offers a **pastoral setting** for **quiet reflection** dewy fields and meadows, cows and maybe even an **alligator**.

Once there, new **friends** and old gather for a **family photograph**, **fellowship**, and a moment of **prayer** before the work begins. You'll enjoy a **change of pace** from your exercise routine, with a variety of ways to **flex your muscles** and **elevate your heart rate**. Sips and gulps of **icy water** will refresh you. **New talents** like of carpentry, painting, sheet rock installation **build your skill set**.

Free lunch is served with **air conditioning**. There are **no movies, shopping, or sports** on TV. There is **laughter**, and **companionship** while working together. There is **pride** in a jobs well done. Driving home the ride seems faster, and at night you'll **sleep like a baby**.

Now if that isn't enough remember the words of Jesus. 'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'...Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?...'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:35, 37, 40.

The people we serve need us. Repairing a roof keeps them dry on rainy days. Insulation keeps them warm in winter. Everything we do makes lives better. People get hope from our smiles, encouragement from our friendship. They feel the love of Christ in our work.

This is Anahuac Andy, carrying his cross to help rebuild homes and lives. Won't you come with him? Sign up now for the August 15 Work Trip.



We need Money, Materials and Manpower. Your contribution will make a difference. Checks can be given to any of our partner churches or mailed to FUMC Rosenberg, 1106 Fourth St, Rosenberg, TX 77471, note Anahuac Comeback on the memo line. Donations are tax deductible. To donate construction materials or other goods, please call Margaret Lawley 281-342-9651. We are not able to accept used clothing or linens at this time.

SIGN UP CONTACTS are waiting to hear from YOU

Margaret Lawley: FUMC Rosenberg 281-342-9651 281-633-1255 molawley@yahoo.com

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Preston Greenwaldt, Missouri City UMC 281-499-3502, pgreenwaldt@fumcmc.org

Directions to August Work Site

Take Interstate 10 East toward Beaumont. After crossing the Trinity River watch for the exit for Texas Highway 61. This is exit #812/813, don't pass it up. Turn right at the stop sign and head south toward Smith Point. Continue south, following signs until you reach Smith Point. Turn right on Plummer Camp Road and watch for the Volunteer Fire Station on the left. According to MapQuest it is 2 hours or 102.4 miles from Richmond, TX. If you get lost call Jennifer Anderson in Smith Point at 214-288-3549.

Stop for a break as you exit I-10, use the rest rooms there and pick up water or ice for the day, get some gas if your tank is low. You'll drive 30 minutes to Smith Point, and there are very few places to stop after leaving the interstate highway.

Work Day Information:

Check website Thursday or Friday for work assignment and tool needs: acomeback.org

Wear comfortable clothes, shoes, hat. Bring work gloves, sunglasses, bug spray, tools.

Lunch will be served. Bring cooler of bottled water and energizing snacks.

Meet 9 AM sharp at Fire Station - directions above. Call sign up contacts to carpool.

Quitting time: When we are all tired, or when the work is complete. We are usually home before dark.

Work assignments are often not set until Wednesday before work day. As soon as details are known they will be posted on the web site acomeback.org. Please check the site or call a sign up contact person before the trip. We often need special tools or equipment that you may be able to bring to help with the projects. Thank you.

JULY WORK CREW REPORT

On July 18, workers from Christ UMC in Sugar Land, Mission Bend UMC and Rosenberg UMC gathered to work on two houses in Smith Point. The Sugar Land group spent their day working on siding and other projects on Maria's house across from the fire station. This was a project started in June, with many of the same workers. Great progress was made on the little house thanks to these hard workers who came with the tools needed for this important job.

Workers from Mission Bend and Rosenberg tackled projects at Jesse's house several blocks away. The photograph below the right was taken after lunch and includes most of the volunteers, family members and guests from Anahuac ISD. Interior sheet rock work was started, and the exterior received two coats of paint. Sue Hawthorne, Librarian at Anahuac Middle School took the photo and wrote the article below it. This will be printed in an upcoming issue of the *Slate*, the newsletter for AISD. Thanks, Sue, for sharing this with us.

Jesse and his family have suffered very difficult times over the past year. Before Ike, Jesse's brother was killed in an accident at work on the fishing boat. His body was not recovered. Jesse's leg was broken in several places when he fell from a ladder at work, and then Ike ruined the family's house. A new baby was born recently, healthy except for some broken bones. In spite of all these hardships, Jesse's faith and optimism have never failed. He is a friendly, smiling man, who made our workers feel comfortable and very welcome.



Jesse and Maria Sanchez, shown above on the far right with their children Jose and Christian, will soon be moving back into their home, thanks to volunteers from the Rosenberg area.

Each month, volunteers, headed by Margaret Lawley of Rosenberg United Methodist Church (UMC), work on Ike-damaged homes in Smith Point. Mrs. Lawley is pictured in the front row on the right, next to the Sanchez family. AISD Supt. Linda Kay Barnhart, who helped serve lunch to the workers July 18, is pictured next to Mrs. Lawley, holding baby Pedro.

The workers above represent Mission Bend UMC and Rosenberg UMC. Other volunteers from Sugar Land UMC were working on another home in the community.

Would the volunteer who photographed the July Work Crew at the fire station please send it via email to molawley@yahoo.com so we can put it in the September newsletter. Thank you.

THANK YOU!

Hardly a week goes by without donations coming in for Anahuac Comeback. Thank you for responding so generously. To Turnkey Painting Contractors, for offering to provide paint for the homes we are restoring, to those of you who come with donations of mattresses, tools, and building materials, and to those who continue to support our work with contributions of money, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

The United Methodist Men of Rosenberg UMC asked for information about our Mission and the work remaining to be done. After a presentation at their July meeting, they gave a check for ministry, and then individuals came forth to offer help. The August work team will enjoy a barbecued wild hog compliments of Mr. Band who has caught and roasted about 1,500 hogs over several years. Mr. Bailey is giving a mattress and box springs to our effort, and plans to deliver these to Smith Point himself. Lou and Ellie Cummings signed up and came on our last work trip. Other men promised to join work crew in coming months. Thanks, Rosenberg UMM!

I couldn't turn down one donation of clothing last month. The garments were so gorgeous and in such good condition that they have been consigned for sale. The money we earn will help buy building supplies.

East Bernard UMC Children gave \$200 during Vacation Bible School in July. They wanted to help with our new refrigerator project for Smith Point Families. Their donation will install an ice maker in one of the new appliances and buy popsicle molds to make summer treats. Thanks children!

Need a SPEAKER? We can provide speakers for your meetings, worship services, and other events. Several Comeback Volunteers have made presentations in worship services, meetings like Rosenberg United Methodist Men, and church missions committee meetings. Every time we find that people are interested in our work and eager to help in various ways. We have some slide presentations to share, tales to tell, and humorous anecdotes. Talks are tailored for each occasion. If you have an opportunity for us to share our mission, our plans, and our faith, please contact Margaret Lawley to make arrangements.

ROOFING NEED The little Catholic Church in Smith Point is being repaired by a group of volunteers from the Episcopal Church. They are supplying labor and most of the materials. We have been asked if we can buy the roofing materials. Since the congregation has been meeting at the First Station - they want to go back to their sanctuary. Can you help with this special need?

Comeback T-shirts were made for Summer work crew volunteers, and we will be giving shirts to those who come on the August trip. If you have not received a shirt, please let us know. We have adult large and extra large sizes available. If you need another size, we'll put you on a list to be sure you get a shirt next

Share your Comeback Story in next month's newsletter. Write a few words or a story about your experience with Anahuac Comeback, email it to molawley@yahoo.com. Your shared stories and faith help us feel like family and encourage others to join in.