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Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) to Welcome Home Hurricane Katrina Disaster Recovery Crew from Louisiana on December 22nd at its New Headquarters in Richmond's Historic Monitor Barn

A VYCC crew headed south on November 28th to help with disaster recovery efforts related to the hurricanes that ravaged the Gulf Coast region earlier this fall. After helping repair homes in Louisiana as part of the Blue Roof Project, they will be returning home to join their families for the holidays on December 22nd at 11 a.m. Please join us in welcoming home the crew from 11 a.m.-noon at the VYCC headquarters at the West Monitor Barn in Richmond, VT.

This fall, the VYCC was contacted by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and asked to send crews to assist in the recovery efforts. The VYCC crew arrived in Baton Rouge on November 30, where they stayed in Tent City and received training from the Army Corps of Engineers. They were assigned to work on the Blue Roof Project in Leesville, LA, where they successfully tarped more than 30 homes in the area just in time for the winter season in Louisiana. With no more project assignments in the area, the crew left the Lion's Camp in Leesville and traveled to New Orleans to continue providing service in that area until December 20th, when the entire crew will head back to Vermont just in time to spend the holidays with their families.

Patrick MacFetters, a member of the crew, shared the following about his experience in Louisiana.

There are so many lessons that I have learned from helping out. We are all human, all on the same level, and all here for the same reason: to help each other out. I saw so many examples of different races and classes just doing whatever together to get something done. It often sounds corny and somewhat overused, but it is true, the worst brings out the best in people. I would also like to say that I learned that possessions are not the most important things we have. People have a hard time understanding this, as I often did before Katrina. When you lose everything that you have ever owned, you reevaluate what is truly important. I am sharing this because I want people to know what it is like and not to forget about the gulf coast now or a year from now.

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps is a statewide non-profit youth leadership, service, conservation, and education organization that instills in individuals the values of personal responsibility, hard work, education, and respect for the environment, and will be sending another crew south on January 3 to continue assisting with relief efforts.

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