

Gustav scatters NOLA natives

Evacuees find temporary home in Memphis

By Sara Barton
Cordova High School

Many people just know the facts of what happened during Hurricane Gustav and the harm it did. Just when the people of Louisiana were getting their lives back together after Hurricane Katrina, another tragedy hit less than three years later.



Hurricane Gustav hit towards the end of Louisiana coming up strongly as a Category 3. Making Louisiana have one of the biggest evacuations they have ever had. People didn't have a choice in the evacuation — everybody had to leave. Over a thousand came to Memphis.

For many families this was their first time since Hurricane Lily leaving their homes, because Hurricane Katrina personally didn't affect them. The Peltier family was one of many families coming to the Memphis area.

They had a total of twenty-two family members that came with them to Memphis. They all agreed they didn't want to leave anybody behind in times like this, though some family members did stay behind.

Charlyne Peltier an 11 year old from Rayne Louisiana said everything about the Hurricane scared her but she was lucky to be alive and safe.

"I am happy we are all okay and that we are away from it all for now." Mary Peltier her younger sister felt the same way. "I feel safe being in Memphis but it isn't the same here and I hope we go home soon."

Their older brother Adam felt differently. "It is scary watching it on TV but good at the same time because we can see what is happening."

The Wright family felt differently, Hurricane Katrina affected them. Their house was mostly gone but they came back to fix as much of it as they could.

Geri Wright said during Katrina she felt completely abandoned.

"I remember just sitting and waiting for help to come thinking is this really our lives? Is this really happening to so many people?" She later stated for the first time in her life she felt like her faith was slowly going away wondering why god didn't help the families in Louisiana.

Jherrica Feliciano age 18 came up with her 10 month old baby to find a place to stay during the Hurricane.

"We traveled 12 hours in order to find a place to stay." Feliciano went on later to say that she went to over seven hotels in order to find a place to stay. She said during the first Hurricane it was harder to find a place to stay. "It happens so fast everybody was running around to get to a place."

Just when they thought everything would be OK, Gustav survivors had new worries of Hurricane Ike.



Photos by Sara Barton,
Cordova

Top left: Hundreds of Louisiana license plates were seen in Memphis during September's storms.

Top right: Louisiana evacuees packed as much as they could to spend the next week away from home.

Middle: Louisiana evacuees stand in front of their temporary home away from home.

Bottom: A charter bus unloads its passengers and cargo in front of a Memphis Fairfield Inn & Suites, where evacuees would spend the next few days.