

The Herald of Randolph

Your e-portal to the events and opportunities
in Vermont's beautiful White River Valley

2006-07-27

Like

0

Tweet

0

Share / Save



Barnard Helping Hands Volunteers Leave on Katrina Relief Project

By Martha Slater

Barnard Helping Hands Volunteers Leave on Katrina Relief Project By Martha Slater

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a group of volunteers from Barnard were among those across the country who reached out to help people who had lost everything.

In the small town of Kiln, Miss., 90% of the 400 students in town were left without a home or a school, and with deep emotional scars. As this small community rebuilds, it's estimated that many of them will spend the next five or six years living in trailers and being schooled in temporary classrooms. The first graders at Gulf View Elementary School will spend their entire elementary school experience in portable classrooms.

The Barnard volunteers decided that they could help by raising funds for and constructing an outdoor classroom/picnic pavilion. The assembly and delivery of this structure by volunteers has been overseen by Rick and Laurel Tobiason, and a crew of volunteers left this week to erect the finished product.

"Helping Hands was looking for a meaningful way to use funds raised for Katrina victims over the course of last year," the Tobiasons explain. "The response to help was so powerful that we formed a committee to seek direct and personal ways to make a difference. Hundreds of Christmas gifts were purchased and sent to families that were devastated and help was given to a Katrina victim who relocated here in Barnard.

"With funds remaining, we decided to head south in search of a community to help similar in size to our own," they continue. "Gulf View Elementary School in Kiln, Miss., was a perfect match. We connected their students with our students at the Barnard Elementary School, and a pen-pal relationship began."

Jan White, Principal of Gulf View, had lobbied for ten years to have an outdoor classroom built. In the summer of 2005 one was finally built, only to be destroyed by Katrina after two weeks of use.

A number of fundraisers were held over the winter and spring months, and all the wood for this project has been purchased, cut, painted, bundled, and is now on its way to Mississippi, along with the crew of volunteers.

Although thousands of dollars have been raised, contributions are still welcome, and those who would like to make a tax deductible donation to continue the Helping Hands projects, may send it to: Barnard Helping Hands/Katrina Project, P.O. Box 243, Barnard, Vt. 05031; or call Rick or Laurel Tobiason at 234-5578 for more information.

Helping Hands board members included co-chairs, Mary Blanton and Kim Furlong; secretary, Linda Beaumariage; treasurer, Carolyn DiCicco; and directors: Louis Ahlen, Joanne Findley, Lloyd Rudolph, Suzanne Rudolph, Laurel Tobiason, and Beverly Ward; and advisory board members: David Baldwin, Anne Koop, Marion Labonte, Hilary Mullins, and Ethan Shaw.

[Return to top](#)

Share / Save



Copyright 2000-2012 OurHerald, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Search

[Browse Archives](#)

RANDOLPH REPUBLICAN CAUCUS will be held **Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Maple Leaf Room at Gifford Medical Center, 44 So. Main St., for the purpose of nominating candidates for **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.**

Town of Rochester

The Town of Rochester is seeking bids for an NRCS funded project for the installation of approximately 130 LF of 3ft thick rip-rap and 4 rock weirs behind 198 Brook Street Road, Rochester. **Specifications and plans will be available at the site meeting or by calling Rochester Town Clerk at 802-767-3631.** A mandatory pre-bid job showing will be held at the project site on **August 7th at 8 AM.** Bids will be due **Tuesday, August 21, 2012 by 4pm.** The Rochester Selectboard reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

- Roof Repairs
- Parking Lot Re-paving
- Culvert Replacement and Drainage Ditch Clean-out
- Locker Room Renovations

**OUR BUS
IS YOUR BEST BET.**

 **\$40
per
Night
Low Fare**

\$40 BONUS PACKAGE VALUE!
\$15 Meal/Retail Coupon
Two \$10 Free Bets & One \$5 Free Bet

Why Drive?
For Information Call:
Mountain Sun Tours
860.747.0483 or
1.800.771.0423

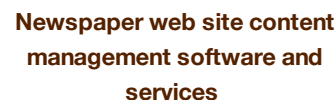
Some packages are limited to individuals 21 years of age or older. Offer subject to change without notice. mtnsun.com

Select Dates:
Rutland, Ludlow, Bethel,
Chester, Roderopham,
Bellows Falls, Keattsboro
White River, Ac. Academy,
Springfield

Check Out Your Summer Fun
at MtnSun.com

©2008 Mountain Sun Tours, Inc.
All rights reserved.

Travelers are advised to purchase travel insurance from Mountain Sun Tours, Inc. for protection of their investment.



2/2