

THE ADVOCATE

Letter to the Editor: Nonprofits back Recovery Corps

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When hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit our state, Louisianians came together to rebuild. Our own people, including many nonprofit organizations, filled in the gaps to ensure much-needed services were delivered.

I was fortunate to lead the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations through that difficult but inspirational time, and I witnessed many collaborative efforts of the private and public sectors in the hurricane recovery effort.

Unfortunately, many families across Louisiana are still hurting. While nonprofits continue to come back to the affected regions and serve our citizens, disaster recovery has been an exceptional challenge for the elderly, children living in poverty and persons with disabilities.

The needs involved in rebuilding our state can only be matched with available resources when we are aware of what sources of help are available and how to access them.

The Louisiana Family Recovery Corps has been pivotal in the coordination of these resources. As a nonprofit organization, the Recovery Corps has worked with state agencies such as the Louisiana Recovery Authority and other nonprofits such as the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, the YMCA and the United Methodist Church to provide the basic needs for families to rebuild.

They have programs that focus on re-establishing households by providing vouchers for stoves or beds. They provided summer camps for children in New Orleans so parents could find work and maintain an income without the overwhelming cost of child care.

The work of the Recovery Corps is a model for seamless disaster recovery — finding results-driven solutions to help people make transitions from immediate emergency relief to long-term human recovery.

LANO has more than 1,000 nonprofit members, all of whom bring a particular passion and service to Louisiana's people.

In moments of great need when resources are scarce, it is vital to our survival that we have a coordinated, comprehensive understanding of what services are available to us.

LANO is pleased to support the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps as it builds a strong partnership to make collaboration possible for disaster planning and recovery.

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