



First Ike Home Grant Recipient Gives Thanks



Since September 2008, Barbara Bunn could only see the severe devastation of Hurricane Ike when she looked at her Baytown home of 15 years. Now she can hardly contain her excitement at plans to host her extended family for a special Thanksgiving dinner in her newly reconstructed residence.

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The 65-year-old Ike victim is already bestowing pre-holiday thanks on the Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) for its innovative Homeowner Disaster Recovery Program (HDRP). Her completed home is the first of many to follow in a \$56-million grant received by Harris County from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs in the aftermath of Ike.

“The people who worked with me are really intelligent individuals and did a great job,” she says. “They paid such attention to detail, which shows in the quality of the home.”



“They were nice and answered my questions, and always tried to make me feel better when I called.”

Ike’s wind and water had extensively damaged the previous Bunn homestead. She and her husband, Billy, applied for rebuilding assistance soon after Harris County received the grant in October 2009. They received approval and selected a floor plan last December, with demolition and reconstruction starting in March. By September, their new home was finished.

“I knew it would take time and I tried to be patient,” she says of the application process. “They were nice and answered my questions, and always tried to make me feel better when I called.”

Her tears at seeing the razing of her earlier residence — and the memories of life there — have been replaced by the happiness of being in a new home. The Bunnns, who operate their own trucking business, say this will eventually become their retirement home.

“It’s the Best Thing that Ever Happened to Me in My Life” — Halyard Josserand

Halyard Josserand and Joyce Breaux lived in a large mobile home in the Highlands area when Hurricane Ike slammed ashore. Initially, Mr. Josserand thought that repairs to his damaged roof might be all that would be needed. Then toxic mold began spreading — making their home uninhabitable and the fix out of their financial reach.

Feeling desperate, Mr. Josserand called 2-1-1. He admits to being skeptical when someone from Harris County called him back asking him to apply for help from the Homeowner Disaster Recovery Program (HDRP).



“I didn’t think anything would come of it, but I had the time and I thought, ‘Why not?’”

Now the retired Hobby Airport airplane mechanic and his partner Ms. Breaux say the resulting wait and paperwork requirements are quickly becoming a distant memory.

“Nowhere in my wildest dreams did I think it would be this nice,” Ms. Breaux says.

Ms. Breaux, who has limited mobility, tells how her quality of life has been greatly improved because the rebuilt residence now features a new entrance ramp, wider doors and other features designed to make her home more accessible.

“This is a whole different world,” Ms. Breaux says. “Everything is new.”

Mr. Josserand said construction went quickly after they received the final approval for the plans. He noted that the work included installation of new storm windows and other hurricane-proofing measures such as extensive metal braces to reinforce the framing of the house. Their residence now feels solid and secure, and modern energy efficient features are greatly lowering their monthly utility costs, he says.



Crosby



Highlands



Seabrook



Harris County



Harris County

Some homes damaged by 2008's Hurricane Ike are being replaced by newer models just like the ones showcased here.

High Standards Required for Construction Materials

Whether your home is being repaired or completely rebuilt, materials used in this program are at or above the standards of the building codes for your area.

- All new roofs have laminated shingles with a 30-year warranty.
- All air conditioning units provided by the Homeowners Disaster Recovery Program feature a 13 Seasonal Energy Efficient Rating (SEER), which is far above the more common 8 SEER units found in homes built before 1992.
- All installed appliances are Energy Star Qualified (where applicable).
- All windows are specified to withstand hurricane force winds, and have Low Emissivity (Low-E) window glazing to provide energy savings.
- All framing is braced with full wall sheathing which will provide resistance to movement during high winds.
- All homes feature a one year warranty.

Is Your Homeowner's Insurance Current?

All homes under construction in the Homeowners Disaster Recovery program are required to have homeowner's insurance in place prior to the end of construction. If your home is nearing the halfway mark or is approaching the end of construction, be sure to provide your case manager with a current insurance policy. This includes homeowners insurance and, in some cases, may include wind and flood insurance. Once construction is complete and insurance policy documents have been received, you will receive clearance to move back into your home. If you have any doubts about the status of your homeowners insurance, please call your case manager at 1-877-332-8014.



A Message From Daphne Lemelle, Program Director

Dear Homeowner,

Our Harris County Recovers program is officially in the construction phase.

It is gratifying to see our first homeowners finally able to get on with their lives, whether it is through rehabilitation of their existing home or total reconstruction. As you can see from this newsletter, the tedious paperwork process does eventually translate into construction.



Harris County is required to comply with guidelines and regulations from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State of Texas General Land Office (GLO) before the funds are officially made available to reconstruct or rehabilitate your home. Please understand that most of what we are asking of you in terms of documentation is required of us from a higher level.

“It is gratifying to see our first homeowners finally able to get on with their lives, whether it is through rehabilitation of their existing home or total reconstruction.”

For those who have yet to start construction, please know that now is the time to stay in close communication with your case manager. We want you to be one of the success stories of our program.

Sincerely,

Daphne Lemelle

Program Director, Harris County Recovers Program

Deputy Director, Harris County Community Services Department
Office of Housing and Community Development

Program Overview

To date:

- 225 applicants have been approved to receive funding by the Texas General Land Office. Contractors have reported the following construction progress:
 - 135 rehabilitation projects are currently underway.
 - 55 rehabilitation projects have been completed.
 - 58 reconstruction projects are in progress.
 - 7 reconstructed homes are now complete.
 - Over 100 more homeowners are projected to move forward with construction to their homes by the fourth quarter of the year.

Is your Application Completed?

All Applicants are highly encouraged to complete the application process by early October.

If you don't know where you are in the application process; call your case manager today at **1-877-332-8014.**

Contact Us

Housing Assistance Center
16602 Diana Lane, Houston, Texas 77062

Call Toll-Free: 1.877.332.8014
www.HarrisRecovery.org

Por favor, comuníquese con su administrador de casos si desea una copia de este boletín de noticias enviado a usted en español.

Xin vui lòng liên hệ với trường hợp của bạn Manager nếu bạn muốn một bản sao của bản tin này được gửi cho bạn ở Việt Nam.