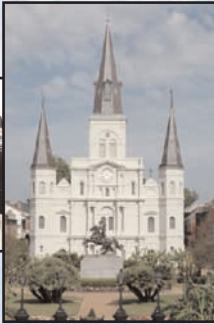


Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans?

In many areas of the city, severely damaged homes and piles of garbage and debris stand in sharp contrast to the recent images of the French Quarter and the Garden District, two neighborhoods that sustained far less damage.



Photos courtesy of Lloyd Dennis

Approximately half of the New Orleans population still lives outside of the city, post-evacuation. Over a year and a half after floodwaters poured into the Lower 9th Ward, New Orleans East, and Lakeview, up to 80% of the citizens in these areas still have not returned.

- Thousands of homes will be demolished and may never be rebuilt.
- Very few 9th Ward homeowners have obtained electrical permits, with electricity restored only in November 2006, and gas service in some areas has yet to be restored.

Life in New Orleans is still far from normal...

The sun always rises.

We cannot hold back the day.

– Ahidiana

Please assist the HOPE program with our ongoing efforts! We will continue to partner with academic and non-profit agencies and efforts such as REACH 2010: At the Heart of New Orleans Coalition and other entities dedicated to this cause. REACH 2010 has been a healing force in New Orleans. HOPE serves people of all faiths and seeks out their individual needs so we may support them.


Donations can be made online at <http://www.abccardio.org/relief.html> or by phone at 1-800-753-9222.

The Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. (ABC), is a 501(c)(3) registered organization that confines its scope of practice to the elimination of disparities in cardiovascular care and outcomes, with specific emphasis on minorities. The ABC does not take political positions, endorse candidates, or allow the use of its name in connection with any political events.



Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.

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Designed and produced by medicalliance

HOPE

Health Outreach Prevention and Empowerment



**Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.**

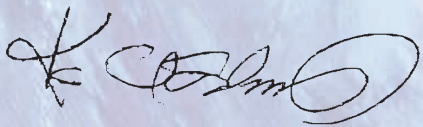
– Maya Angelou

The sudden and unwelcome transition from building and working rigorously in one of the busiest cardiology practices in New Orleans, to witnessing the total collapse of my cardiovascular center left me utterly distressed. I, along with most who endured the hurricane, fought the inclination to succumb to helplessness and rage. While my personal misery may be lifting gradually, there are tens of thousands of American citizens who are unsure of what tomorrow will bring in terms of their very survival.

The Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. (ABC), created the Health Outreach Prevention and Empowerment (HOPE) program to aid in relief efforts for the citizens of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. The leadership of the ABC, and I personally, as director of the HOPE program, continue our commitment to assist those recovering from this disaster. To date, the HOPE program has raised more than \$300,000 and given direct, needed support to displaced, suffering citizens.

As you continue to support our endeavors, you honor the thousands of Americans killed or displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina."

Please join us in our efforts by making an online contribution at <http://www.abccardio.org/relief.html> or contacting the ABC at 1.800.753.9222.



Keith Ferdinand, MD, FACC
Director, ABC Hurricane Relief Fund



The available health care in New Orleans proper remains only a small fraction of what it once was. Only three of nine hospitals within Orleans Parish have reopened, and the total functioning inpatient beds are less than 50% of their former capacity.

The free and low-cost clinics struggle to meet the community's need for health care, particularly because as many as three-fourths of the city's medical providers no longer practice there. Patients are showing up at clinics with severe periodontal disease, fungal pneumonia, skin lesions, uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension, and mental health concerns.

There continue to be large waves of depression, anxiety, stress, and hostility among evacuees and those who struggle to rebuild. This leads to increased rates of hypertension, smoking, obesity, stroke, cardiac events, and even death.

We need to continue to support our fellow citizens with medical, psychological, even psychiatric care in their time of need.

What **HOPE** can do...

Accomplished...

- Supplied cell phones to Reach 2010
- Supported Health Recovery Week, a collaborative effort
- Donated funds and supplies to various organizations including:
 - Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta
 - Gulf Coast churches
 - Little Rock Baptist Church
 - Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries
 - Delaware County Christian Schools
 - Madison Parish Schools
 - ABC Choices Churches

Continues to...

- Provide transportation to resource centers and transitional housing units
- Provide food, toiletries, and clothing
- Develop key contacts in cities needing direct financial support for evacuees
- Distribute debit cards for transportation and personal needs of victims
- Support primary and specialty cardiac services for chronic illnesses in high-risk communities
- Support St. Thomas Health Center and others serving the uninsured and underinsured

Your contributions can help us do even more.