

# Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services

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## **Main Street Oakland County Assistance Team Leaves Friday for Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

(February 21, 2006)

A team of volunteers, sponsored by Main Street Oakland County, leaves for Hattiesburg, Mississippi this Friday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m., to provide assistance to those affected by Hurricane Katrina. The group will board a chartered bus at the Oakland County Executive Office Building 34E, Oakland County Service Center, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac for the 22-hour trip to Hattiesburg. MSOC Coordinator Bob Donohue, Oakland County Commissioners, sponsors and the Men of Grace Choir will provide remarks and a short program to send off the team of volunteers.

Main Street Oakland County (MSOC), a leader in providing support to traditional downtown communities, responded to the call from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to provide assistance to other Main Street communities damaged by Hurricane Katrina. While in Hattiesburg, the team will work to secure and clean up the historic Old Hattiesburg High School, a structure destined to become the University of Southern Mississippi's Department of Art and Design and Museum of Art. Damage to the building and the amount of clean-up has significantly delayed the rehabilitation project. In addition to assisting a fellow Main Street program, the assistance team will develop hands-on skills in disaster preparation & response training, historic preservation & building rehabilitation training, and leadership and team building skills.

Five men in the recovery program at Grace Centers of Hope, Oakland County's oldest and largest homeless shelter, are volunteering their time and talents with Oakland County Main Street to assist Hurricane Katrina clean-up efforts in Hattiesburg. Pastor Kent W. Clark, CEO of Grace Centers of Hope states, "This is a great opportunity for our guys to give back and use their skills for the benefit of others."

Transportation and supplies are being made possible through donations provided by Abarici Construction, American Flag & Banner, Archive DS - Detroit, Akwa Water - Ortonville, M59 Big Boy Restaurant, Blue Lakes Charters & Tours, Butzel Long, Budget Rental, Clarkston State Bank, Colours By Christopher, Contemporary Sign & Design, Costco, Dillman & Upton Lumber Co. - Rochester, Dolly's Pizza, State Representative Fran Amos, Galaxy Transport, Inc., Gordon Foods Service Marketplace, Grace Centers For Hope - Pontiac, Heroes BBQ & Brew,

Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association, Industrial Cleaning Supply, Inc., James Lumber Co. - Oxford, the Joseph Kube Family, Kelly Services, Kerton Lumber Co. - Holly, Media Network, Metro Aircraft Instruments, Inc., Michaels Arts & Crafts, Michigan Schools & Government Credit Union, National City Bank, National Scaffold Rental Co., National Trust for Historic Preservation, Oakland Community College, Oakland County Business Finance Corporation, Oakland County Economic Development Corporation, Oakland County Drain Commission, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Facilities Maintenance & Operations, Main Street Oakland County, Oakland County Parks & Recreation, Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services, Oakland County Road Commission, Robertson Bros., Inc., Rochester Mills Beer Co., Roy Lange Construction, Sam's Club, Schram Auto Parts, Inc., Spencer Roofing - Commerce Township, Waterford Rotary Club, WCHB AM 1200 Radio and WWJ Radio AM 950.

An online slide presentation about the Old Hattiesburg High School can be seen at [www.albertassociates.com/slideshow-2.html](http://www.albertassociates.com/slideshow-2.html).

The web site for Main Street Oakland County's Hattiesburg Response Team is at [www.oakgov.com/peds/program\\_service/main\\_street/msochattiesburg.html](http://www.oakgov.com/peds/program_service/main_street/msochattiesburg.html).

Farmington, Ferndale, Highland, Holly, Keego Harbor, Lake Orion, Ortonville, Oxford, Pontiac, Rochester, Royal Oak and Walled Lake are members of Main Street Oakland County. More than \$344 million has been reinvested in Main Street communities in Oakland County since the program was formed here in 2000.

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