

## “North Rampart Community Center Story”

North Rampart Community Center (NRCC) is located on the border between the French Quarter (“Vieux Carre”) and the African American community of Treme in the ancient and historic section of old New Orleans. The center was established in 1909 by the Women’s Society of Christian Services, Board of Missions, Methodist Church, as part of a nationwide movement to establish community centers in high poverty areas around the country and to provide Christian education to the children of an expanding immigrant population within New Orleans. The mission expanded to primarily address the material, educational, and spiritual needs of the women and children. The Center continued to serve this growing population in the twenties and thirties, becoming involved in child care during World War II and adding a medical clinic, which also served the African American community in the forties. The Center played a key role in the desegregation of the public schools in the early sixties. In 1971, the center was incorporated under the same name as the church as a 501(c) (3) with a local Board of Directors from the community. It was within this time period that the work of the Center began to focus on the African American population in Treme.

In May 2007, North Rampart Community Center was incorporated to bring services back to the center after Hurricane Katrina. Starting in June, the summer camp was our first program, with an enrollment of 50 children. We concluded our after school program for 2007-2008 with a total of 250 children enrolled.

### Institution Mission Statement

North Rampart Community Center is a National Mission of the Women’s Division of the United Methodist Church. It is dedicated to the self-development of people, especially women and children, through education, vocational training and economic development, advocacy and support, recreation and the arts.

You may support our ministries financially through:

- Direct donations made payable to “North Rampart Community Center”
- The Advance for Community Centers 982149 with the designation for NRCC.
- Accepting a covenant relationship with Joanne Finley, Church & Community Worker Advance 982024

### NRCC Vision statement

The vision of this center is to provide holistic programs.

Scriptures: Habakkuk 2:1-4

Psalm 121; Proverbs 16:3

...though it tarry, wait for it;

---Habakkuk 2:3



*The artist of this mural is one of the volunteers, Ms. Alison Hensley from San Anselmo, CA*

# North Rampart Community Center

*North Rampart Community Center, Inc. (NRCC) is a nonprofit organization designed to enhance the quality of life through human services to children, youth, and families by providing holistic programs that foster a sense of well being in all individuals, to train leaders for tomorrow and create a compassionate atmosphere for all individuals within the community.*

## **North Rampart Community Center, Inc.**

a non-profit community-learning center



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## A History Lesson of the Center



We have a gymnasium in the Center that is said to be the oldest in the City of New Orleans. The movies “Glory Road,” and “Once On This Island” were filmed in the gym along with the movie “Hurricane Season,” starring Forrest Whitaker. The gym is a major attraction for the theater world and a source of funding.



The swimming pool has its own testimony, besides being the oldest pool in New Orleans. One of the children, who learned to swim in the pool, was able to rescue a family member during Hurricane Katrina.



This is one of three dorm rooms where we house up to 30 volunteers, who come to New Orleans to help in the rebuilding of the city.



Summer Camp 2008  
What’s a camp without a pool!

...freely ye have received, freely give.  
—Matthew 10:8

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, children, youth and families of North Rampart Community Center, we would like to say thank you for your generous donations, prayers and time that you have shared with us here at the center.

Without you, we would not have had such a rewarding summer this year nor would we have an after-school program this year. This summer we had a total of 75 children, an increase of 25 over the first summer camp, post- Katrina. We are now in our after school program and the children are returning in record numbers. Our goal is to have 300 children on roll by the end of the school year.



Ms. Betty Shirley and her students in the Art Room



Ms. Joiner and her reading class



Ms. Thompson and her computer class

Greetings!

It brings me such joy to be able to share what God is doing here at the Center. I have been here for a year now and still enjoy seeing the children as they come through our gates. Our after-school program is growing as we add new activities, as opportunities present.

Progress presents needs: volunteers, financial donations and a paid staff. Our success depends on your help and support—making this OUR success! It takes a minimum \$200,000 a year to fund the after school program and another \$50,000 for the summer camp.

Funding to keep the program going is our most urgent need. We thank you for your donations on behalf of our children. Be assured they are prayerfully used as we strive to be good stewards of our Lord and Savior.

--Deaconess Joanne Finley, Executive Director