**TIM MOLAK (4 SLIDES)**

New Orleans became our home during out winter break

The OUR was Fr Martin, Ms. Brown 8 Priory girls and me. Our Dream Team traveled to the site of Hurricane Katrina- which occurred 11 years ago-to work and serve people who were in need of our gifts- they needed us to work to assist in restoring their homes.

We went as individuals who became a group at the end of those 7 days – we shared living, eating, working together- and left with great memories, amazing stories, and a much better understanding of ourselves, the Priory mission and the people we helped while there. New Orleans is called the Big Easy- we found out that all was not easy in the Big Easy.

Now in pictures and words here is a look at our DREAM TEAM service week in Nawlins.

**BRITTA BROWN- 4 SLIDES**

When I first got asked to go on this trip, I barely knew where the bathroom was at Priory since I only had been here almost 2 weeks. I had no idea what to expect. But I knew it would be a trip with these 2 guys and I assumed a couple boys and a couple girls. I would be the girls chaperone.

NEXT SLIDE

But needless to say it was complete girl-power. And while I was the chaperone, I could easily be mistaken for their age.

NEXT SLIDE

The best part of the trip was seeing alll of their personalities and learning how much they love to eat

NEXT SLIDE

But through it all, I still had my eye on them always checking in and even working under Ms. Mary’s house.

Now we will have the girls take you through the trip giving their perspective about our Base House, Hurricane Katrina, Rebuilding at Ms. Mary’s House, Rebuilding at Ms. Sharon’s house, the food and culture of New Orleans and our Rustic Pathways leaders.

**BASE HOUSE SLIDE**

OLIVIA FLYNN

When learning that our entire group would be staying at a base house, I didn’t exactly know what it would end up being like. The house ended up being really comfortable and perfect for spending time there after a long day of work. All of us girls slept in one room but with 4 bunk beds and our own bathroom. Whether it was watching movies, making popcorn, preparing lunches, playing card games, or late night snacks, our time at the base house was one of the most memorable parts of the trip. We all looked forward to being able to hang around the couches and reminisce about the best parts of our day while cracking jokes and telling stories.

**KATRINA SLIDE**

JENNA TONAGAI:

On our first full day in New Orleans the first thing we did was go to the Katrina History museum. There was one exhibit that really left an impression. It was images of a wall that had been written on by a Katrina survivor in the days after the hurricane. It had dates and a brief description of what he did that day. The man who kept his diary on the wall, Elton Mabry, later explained his desire to pick up a sharpie and start writing saying that he was lonely, afraid, hungry, and bored. And yet despite all those reasons he refused to leave because New Orleans was his home. His writing from the top of the wall to the floors painted a powerful picture about what life was like for those who couldn’t leave their lifelong homes.

**KATRINA SLIDE**

KATE FLYNN:

When walking into the museum I was shocked to look up and see glass bottles and glass hands hanging from the ceiling. The bottles represented the total death toll of Katrina and each had a message inside to remember the life that was lost. Mixed in with the bottles were glass hands to represent the people who provided aid to many in need during this time. It was amazing to see how many people lost their lives or homes, and had nothing left. The museum was really eye opening and showed us what it was really like for the people on the other side of the phone just asking for water and food while waiting to be rescued.

We also visited the levees and got to see exactly where and how the water flooded into New Orleans.

**MS MARY SLIDE 1**

CATE TOMLINSON

Ms. Mary’s was where we spent the majority of our days. We all got to lie on a tarp under the house and try to avoid the liquid concrete we had to squirt into the insulation. I got to paint a bathtub, paint a closet, and scrape paint off the floor. It felt great to be able to see our progress and know that we were affecting someone with our work. Even though you couldn’t really see the work we did if you were standing up because it was under the house, at least we know that our insulation will be there forever. I am sure Ms. Mary’s house will always be at the right temperature.

**MS MARY SLIDE 2**

CHELSEA FENG

At Ms. Mary’s house I did different works. I remember on the first day when we were asked to go under the house. It was a shock to me. However, in the following days, I also did not anticipate that I would start to accept and like what I was doing. We began with zero, but the end, we have installed most of the insulation. I also remember painting the stairs at her house. I was surprised to see how my painting just made her house look totally different, nice and neat. I was very happy to help Ms. Mary, and I hope her new house will make her happy.

**MS MARY SLIDE 2**

KATE MAWHINNEY

It was great to know you have an impact on something Ms. Mary will unwillingly notice and love every day. Most of the time I was at Ms. Mary’s I was under the house taking down chicken wire and installing insulation. To be honest I was excited and quite shocked they willingly trusted me with a hammer, a nail gun, and a power drill. Ms. Mary has had a very difficult life and I feel good that we can try to make her life just a little bit easier.

**MS SHARON SLIDE1**

JENNA TONAGAI

Ms. Sharon was struck by a lot of bad luck over the past ten years. After Hurricane Katrina she had to move into a trailer where she fell and was paralyzed. Since then she has recovered, but her house has been flooded twice. Amazingly, when she told us her story she wasn’t angry at her fortune she said she felt blessed and thankful that she was able to recover each time. We went to her house to put up baseboards that were wrecked after the second flood. There was confusing angles and beveling involved that I still don’t really understand. I can’t even tell you how many times we got the measurement or angle wrong and had to recut and install the board. And even though the work was very frustrating, Ms. Sharon was amazing. She told us to make ourselves at home and spent the entire afternoon making the best pralines. Throughout the day frustrations built, but I think Ms. Sharon inspired us to look on the bright side and at the end of the day we were actually able to see a difference in the house and it looked professional if I do say so myself.

**MS SHARON SLIDE 2**

KATE FLYNN

When first being told about Ms. Sharon’s story I was astonished to learn about what she had gone through after Katrina. Meeting her in person was nothing like what I had pictured. She was welcoming and greeted us at her door first thing in the morning. Throughout the day she was making sure we made ourselves at home and spent the afternoon making us pralines, which we found out she sells on her website. When it was time for us to leave, Ms. Sharon was so thankful for all our hard work and it was amazing to see the impact we had from working for just one day.

**FOOD AND CULTURE SLIDE 1**

EVA ELFISHAWY

I was taken back by the rich culture and tremendous resilience of the New Orleanians after everything they had been through. We saw this culture in the live music, the delicious food, and the incredible Mardi Gras parades. We saw resilience in the wonderful people.

**FOOD AND CULTURE SLIDE 1**

OLIVIA BERIKER

Throughout the week in New Orleans we were introduced to new ideas and activities. Learning about the culture is something i will definitely not forget. Going to the mardi gras Parade had to be one of my favorite parts. Everyone was in the streets, and there floats passed us handing out beads. Everyone was celebrating it and some even decorated their houses because of the festivities. Not only did we see culture in the parades we saw culture within the parades, but we had the opportunity to go to preservation hall, to see live jazz. There we experienced a small amount of New Orleans culture within music. It was fantastic to witness music and the people in New Orleans. One thing that I will remember forever is that the people in New Orleans were extremely nice! They would ask questions and welcome you with open arms! New Orleans was such a great experience and going on this trip was a great experience!

**FOOD AND CULTURE SLIDE 1**

CHELSEA FENG

The Mardi Gras parades were just fantastic. I had never seen any parade that connect people together. The catching of beads, cups, glowing sticks and even skirts was so fun. I got a collection of glowing stuffs in the parade, but more importantly, it felt so excited to have fun with all the people in NOLA. And Cafe du Monde was also an important part. The beignets there were so famous that we got up at 7 to get them but there was already a long line. The beignets were the best dessert I have ever had. The airboat ride would be the most memorable part. We got to see the sunset in the airboat, and even touched baby alligators! The scenery was beautiful and it was lots of fun.

**FOOD AND CULTURE SLIDE 2**

CATE TOMLINSON

Along with everything we did on the trip, the food was definitely an aspect that I won’t forget. Every night it was a different type of fried food. I didn’t even know beef needed to be fried until I went to New Orleans. Food is very much a part of New Orleans's history, and their traditional dishes could be found in almost every restaurant we went to. The people around us were used to the constant parades, live music, fortune tellers and artwork covering the streets. There was always a parade to join or a band to watch, and the mood of the city was exciting and welcoming.

**OUR RUSTIC TEAM SLIDE**

OLIVIA FLYNN

We truly could not have asked for better leaders on our trip. Knowing that most of us were hesitant to crawl under the house, they stayed positive and motivated us to finish the job throughout the entire week. From letting us have singing sessions in the van, to letting us go shopping, taking us to cafe du monde, and making sure we had enough time to relax, our two leaders put all their time and energy into making the experience an amazing memory for us. Our week would not have been nearly as fun without our awesome leaders and chaperones.

**OUR RUSTIC TEAM SLIDE**

KATE MAWHINNEY

The rustic team welcomed our crazy California esc with open arms. Within the first day we were all making fun of each other and joking around, and by the end we were asking for numbers and emails to try and keep in touch. Whether it was being our friend, organizing our activities, letting people try on their onesies (Kate Flynn) or yelling at us to get back under the house, they were our family for the week. At the end we had a rustic ties ceremony to connect us all back to the service and new experiences we had this week. We all got a red, white, and blue bracelet so we could remember our trip, but I don’t think any of us would be able to forget it.

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER MARTIN (1 slide)

PLAY VIDEO SLIDE SHOW