



# Emergency Communities

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## RELIEF KITCHEN OPENS IN DEVASTATED PLAQUEMINES PARISH

Non-profit hopes to replicate successes from St. Bernard

BURAS, LA—April 15—Emergency Communities, the non-profit relief effort that operates the Made with Love Café and Grill in St. Bernard Parish, announces the opening of a similar free kitchen and community center in Buras, Louisiana.

Hurricane Katrina first made landfall in Buras, and between Katrina and Rita, Plaquemines Parish suffered twenty-seven levee breaks and a total of 6.5 million gallons of spilled oil. Buras, Port Sulfur, Pointe a la Hache, and other towns of southern Plaquemines were destroyed. Emergency Communities will help residents lead the relief effort by offering hot, nutritious meals, and a safe, positive space to gather and discuss the challenges of rebuilding. The kitchen will operate from May 1 through August 20.

The United Way and members of the Plaquemines Parish government invited Emergency Communities to open a kitchen in Buras after noting the success of the Made with Love Café and Grill. Since opening on December 12 in Arabi, LA, the Made with Love Café and Grill has served about 1500 hot meals per day. Made with Love also offers distribution of clothing, water, and ice; free internet and long distance; first aid; showers and haircuts; and other short-term relief services by resident suggestion.

The new kitchen will be on the site of a wrecked YMCA in Buras. Emergency Communities expects to serve as many as 1,000 meals a day to returning residents and displaced residents who commute in daily to work on their homes. "Buras was the first place on the Gulf Coast hit by Katrina, and in some ways it's the last place to get relief," says Executive Director Mark Weiner. "Some Plaquemines residents drive two hours just to buy groceries. We want to alleviate that burden so residents can focus on the challenge of rebuilding their homes, lives, and communities."

For questions or photographs contact Outreach & Development Director Michael Agresta at 203-561-0358, or [magresta@emergencycommunities.org](mailto:magresta@emergencycommunities.org).

