



Southern Mutual Help Association, Inc.

A Community Development Corporation

**BUILDING STRONG, HEALTHY
PROSPEROUS RURAL COMMUNITIES**

**A 53 YEAR HISTORY OF TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE
AGAINST ALL ODDS**

- Build Equitable Institutions
- Invest in Communities, Families & Businesses
- Leverage Private Sector Investment
- Respond to Disaster— SMHA's Rural Recovery Response

Our Mission

“Building Strong, Healthy, Prosperous Rural Communities”

Southern Mutual Health Association Inc. is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation based in New Iberia, La. It is governed by a nine-member board of directors composed of leaders who reflect the diversity of the areas in which the organization works. The organization’s current President is Lorna Bourg, one of the original co-founders of Southern Mutual Help Association.

SMHA also has created Southern Mutual Financial Services Inc. (SMFS), a wholly-owned subsidiary referred to as an affiliate under non-profit law. SMFS is certified by the U.S. Treasury as a Community Development Financial Institution serving the entire state of Louisiana and is governed by a separate board of directors. As the parent-corporation, SMHA retains veto-authority of the board of directors’ membership. SMHA also provides staff services for SMFS.



Mag Ritchey
Board Chair

Corporate attorney, financial and investment advisor, active member of the Lafayette community.

... [CLICK NAME ABOVE FOR FULL BIO](#)



Lorna Bourg
President for SMHA

Co-founder of SMHA, organizer in Louisiana's rural communities, MacArthur Foundation Fellow, Fannie Mae Foundation James A. Johnson Fellow, former member...

[CLICK NAME ABOVE FOR FULL BIO](#)



Sr. Helen Vinton
Sr. Executive Officer / Life Quality Initiatives Senior Advisor for SMHA

Expert on environmental issues, fisher families, rural specialist, rural organizing, manages \$2 million in program-related investments from religious congregations, member... [CLICK NAME ABOVE FOR FULL BIO](#)



Senator Fred Mills
Board Member

President and CEO of Farmers Merchants Bank & Trust, licensed pharmacist, founding member and served as President of St. Martin... [CLICK NAME ABOVE FOR FULL BIO](#)



Ashley Shelton
Board Member

Founder, President, and CEO of the Louisiana Power Coalition. She served as Louisiana Director of One Voice Louisiana, is former... [CLICK NAME ABOVE FOR FULL BIO](#)



Roberta Madden
Board Member and Former Board Chair

Working on the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, past director for Women's Health & Public Policy, womens' advocacy, former... [CLICK NAME ABOVE FOR FULL BIO](#)



Ashley Rogers
Board Member
Executive Director Whitney Plantation, PhD in justice history, economic work in rural communities

... [CLICK NAME ABOVE FOR FULL BIO](#)



Judy Herring
Board Member
Family and Community Development, Retraining through Mentoring and Education

... [CLICK NAME ABOVE FOR FULL BIO](#)



Juanita Alvarez Mainster
Board Member
Partnership Specialist, US Census Bureau, Community advocate for farmworkers, immigrants and women, Florida State Advisory Council for US Commission on... [CLICK NAME ABOVE FOR FULL BIO](#)

SMHA's Rural Recovery Response—THE WEST



One of hundreds of homes needing help. SMHA identified this home and it has been vetted by our partners and on the list as a potential new build.

WE HELP THE FORGOTTEN

Small rural communities like Holmwood, Hayes, Bell City, LeBleu, Roanoke, Elton, Iowa, Lacassine, Jennings, Welsh, Oberlin, Lake Arthur and other small hamlets.

We don't forget.



WE GIVE HOPE!

Mrs. Miller was so excited the first time we showed up. She had waited so long while she is taking care of her adult disabled son.

We listened. We took action.

**Her home is now repaired
by our Partnership.**

WE LISTEN - WE ACT

- Some are so happy to see us they just want to talk and tell their story.

And we listen.

- We get calls from people in tears who heard about us or saw work being done in their neighborhood.

We take action.

SMHA's Rural Recovery Response

WE BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

- Mennonite Disaster Service
- Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana
- SWLA Responds
- Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana

THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIPS

SMHA HAS:

- Identified 15 homes with repairs completed (67% People of Color)
- Identified 6 homes being repaired (83% People of Color)
- Identified 8 potential new builds (38% People of Color)
- Identified and referred 98 additional to construction partners

WE REBUILD LIVES

A total rebuild has started for 80 year old grandmother who takes care of her grandkids in Welsh.

Monica Broussard,
one of SMHA's Rural
Recovery Response
Field Team.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Dedication of a repaired home destroyed by fire and hurricanes.

SMHA's Rural Recovery Response Field Team in Jennings with Mennonite Disaster Service, SWLA Responds and Community Foundation of SW Louisiana.



SMHA's Rural Recovery Response

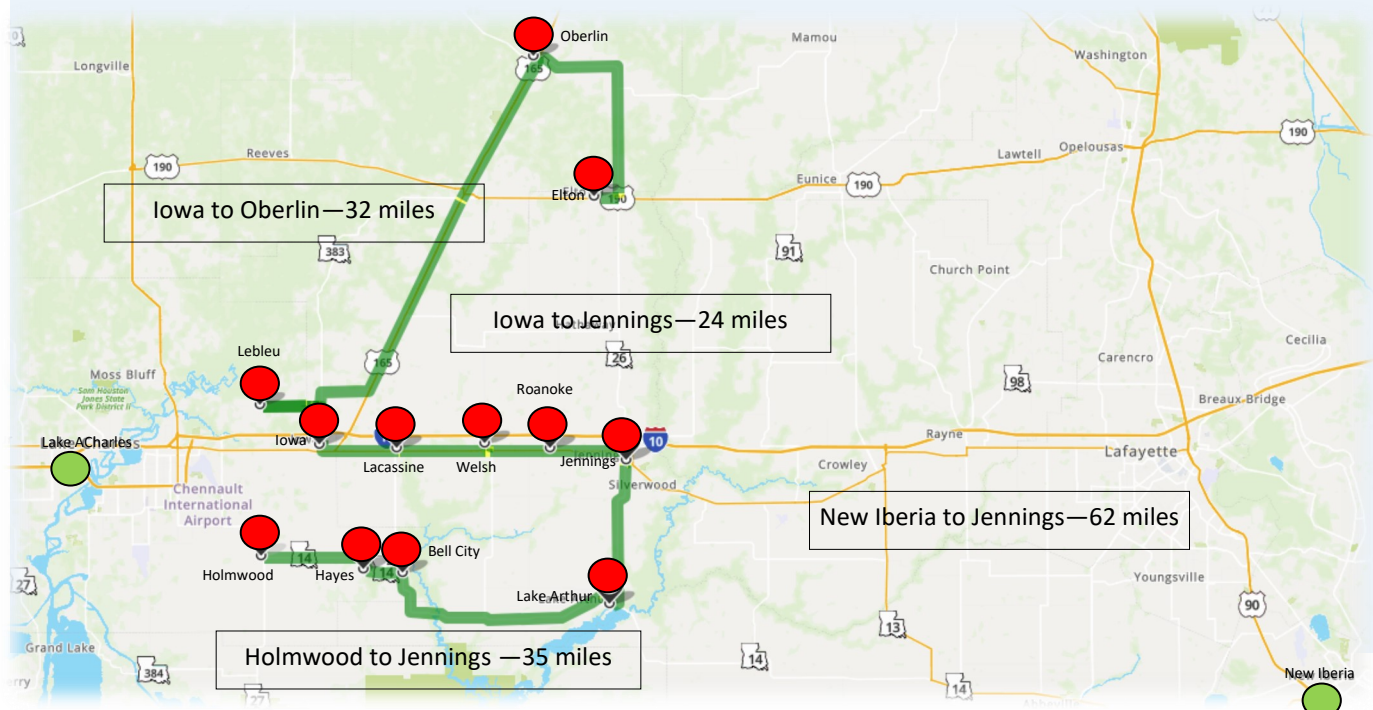


"You are the first to show up. We didn't know what we were going to do and had nowhere to go and no one to turn to."

Comments we hear so often.....

"I'm more worried about my neighbor. Have you checked on them?"

"Thank you! We are so grateful that you called!"

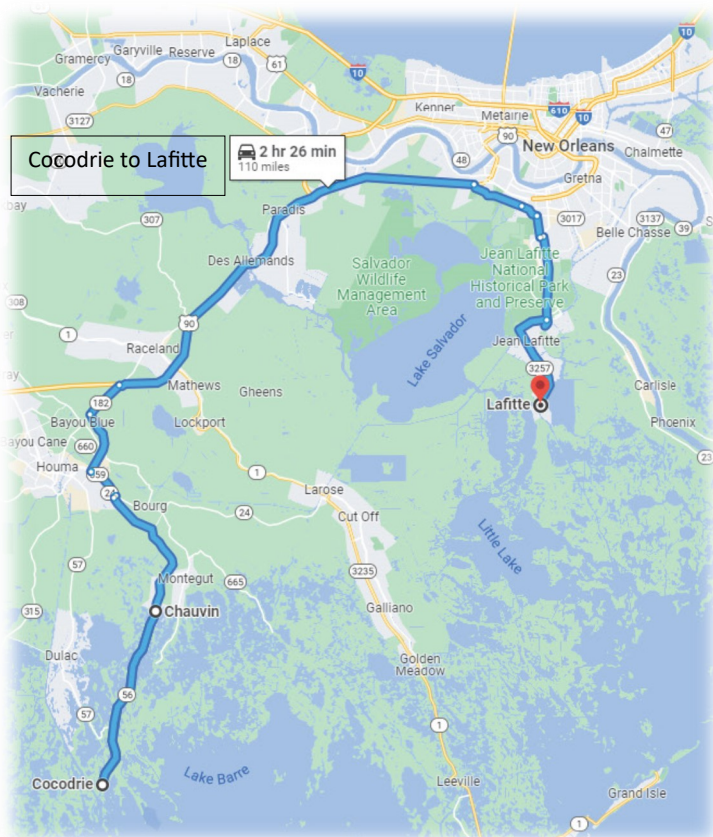


SMHA's Rural Recovery Response—THE EAST



Fisher families were impacted by **Hurricane Ida**.

Listen, Learn & Act



THE FORGOTTEN

Small settlements of fisher families like Chauvin, Cocodrie and Lafitte are not yet in recovery for their homes, boats and devastated fisheries.

Support is critical and basic to a just recovery!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



DISASTER RECOVERY

SMHA worked with leadership to recover family homes inundated by flooding.

LEADERSHIP PLANNING with
SMHA President Lorna Bourg and
WECNA leaders



SMHA has sponsored training around the country for the WECNA leadership for 15 years.



Small Business Loans



New Beginnings Word of Faith Ministries

- Four Corners, St. Mary Parish



Moore's II Soul Food Café & Catering

- West End, New Iberia



Moore's Owner Albert Moore
with Southern Mutual
Financial Services, Inc.'s
Administrator Clementine
Matthews