



We are here today to announce the beginning of a student led social movement that has the potential to make an overwhelmingly positive difference on the Coast. On January 15, in honor of Dr. King's birthday and his vision of a just society, we will begin our work on the Coast and in New Orleans. At that time, students from all walks of life and from all over America will come to MS and LA to go "door to door and store to store" to ask residents to contact their Congressmen and women, Senators, and the President to ask for the immediate passage of a law to aid in the recovery of the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Their efforts will span the entire week, culminating in a rally in New Orleans on Saturday, January 20.

In less than a week, 80 students from 13 colleges and universities have responded to the call.

The goals of the project are: to return the nation's attention to the Gulf Coast; to have students witness first-hand the social suffering that is occurring; and to promote the immediate passage of federal legislation to implement the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project.

If passed by Congress, the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project would hire 100,000 local residents to rebuild the Katrina ravaged areas of the MS. Gulf Coast and New Orleans. The residents would build and repair houses, schools, levees, parks, and other civic buildings.

Dr. Scott Myers-Lipton of San Jose State University, will lead the team that will include Coast and New Orleans residents and students to work closely with members of Congress to write the legislation.

- ?? Statement of support: Brian Carriere, President of the Gulfport City Council
- ?? Importance of student involvement: Todd Avera
- ?? Importance of empowerment: Cindy Lamb, Director of Development, Interfaith Disaster Task Force
- ?? Why we're involved: Michael Rasmussen, Amber Hartfield, Sean Brazil

We call on the citizens of the Gulf Coast to join us in our efforts to rebuild our homes, our sense of community, and our faith in our system of government.

If you are a college student, please go to www.solvingpoverty.com and register to participate in our efforts to go door to door and store to store to encourage Coast citizens to call on their representatives to immediately pass Gulf Coast Civic Works Project and repair the social contract between the government and the citizens.

If you're a high school student, we urge you to organize your clubs and organizations and speak to the people in your neighborhoods, schools, churches and malls. Please let us know your plans by registering on the site.

Finally, if you are part of an organization or a private citizen that would be willing to provide support for the students in the form of food, housing or transportation, please go to the website and register. Everyone can take part in this important movement.

Please visit www.solvingpoverty.com to learn more and sign up to join us!