

Rebuilding My Second Home: Xavier Alum organizes a rebuilding effort in New Orleans

Our week began with us moving into the House of Studies on Xavier's campus and worshipping together at Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Church's Uptown location. Co-Pastor Morton's Easter message encouraged us to "Finish the Task" and it truly gave us the spiritual foundation we needed to move forward.

The next five days were spent volunteering with Habitat for Humanity at the Musician's Village. Harry Connick, Jr., Branford and Ellis Marsalis partnered with Habitat to build homes in the Upper 9th Ward. The goal of the project is to increase the availability of housing for musicians. My team was assigned to three homes located on Clouet Street. Our assigned homes were near completion, so they needed the finishing touches for their scheduled dedication ceremony. Our tasks included, but were not limited to painting, cleaning, digging holes, shoveling, grading, mixing cement, hammering, etc. Not all of us were skilled in the many trades, but we gave it our best.

I must share that I am truly a city girl and had no idea how to do a number of the tasks assigned, but I was up for the challenge. I spent the week outside putting up fence posts and preparing the outside grounds. I never knew how much time it takes to shovel and level sand!

Xavier Love,

Danyale Ellis c/o 1997