

Report from New Orleans, Tuesday, May 11

Today was our first day of work. We were divided into two groups for our work assignments. One group of five went to the neighboring community of Algiers, directly across the river from New Orleans, to help in a community garden. The remainder of our crew was assigned to work at the Heritage Gardens to help prepare for an agricultural fair for local schools.

The community gardens were run by a group called Common



Cause. They operate a free health clinic. Algiers, because of its higher ground, served as a holding area for people after the flooding occurred. Many doctors, medics and social workers came here to help the



people who were stranded. There was a lot of work to do and after five years Common Cause is a big part of the community.

Rachael, our supervisor, is an herbalist at the center and explained to us that the garden is divided in plots for the

Today was really awesome we went to the place called Teche Garden where we helped weed shuffle and mow the lawn. It was really cool the lady who ran the garden was named Rachael and very nice and welcoming she told us all about her organization and how they have helped people and been there for years. They help people by going door to door and giving medical and mental help for the victims of Katrina. Then we said bye bye and started going back home but before we did we stopped at an outdoor indoor basketball court. It was really cool. Then we went on this car ferry across the Mississippi. All in all, today was a really inspiring, fun day.

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local residents and contains herbs which she and others use at the center. We spent the day digging up weeds, trimming grass, constructing clear walk ways and sweating.



The other group went to the Heritage Gardens where Miss Kathy is getting ready for Agriculture Day, a special day to show the urban youth how their food is grown. The garden was right next to the Mississippi River and the ferry, so we saw enormous ships passing all day long and heard the distinctive ferry horn. We weeded, painted boards and murals, and moved lots of lumber. The kids, armed with Queen Ant Killer, went in search of fire ant mounds. I believe the most popular job was watering the gardens and

each other. Miss Kathy told us about the French settlers and the slaves they brought to create New Orleans. We were actually working where the King of France had his gardens and livestock. The enclosed area is called The Village and recounts the history of New Orleans through displays.

My group went to the Heritage Gardens to help out. We weeded, moved wood, and painted some. I was asked to paint murals for agriculture day at the gardens. I painted a pig and some veggies too, it was a lot of fun.

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