

Report from New Orleans, Thursday, May 13

On Thursday we reported for work at the Food and Farm Network. This organization is a local cooperative that is rebuilding New Orleans one garden at a time. They are trying to increase the local produce movement and personal independence. There is a shortage of supermarkets in the disadvantaged areas of town and many lack transportation to the larger food stores. Having local gardens is one solution to this problem. Residents can have a small produce garden installed by

Today we did a lot of gardening. It was a lot of work but it seemed like less. That's probably because it is not today. We worked for the Food Farm Network. They are an organization that makes gardens for people. Today, we were to make a garden for a man in the ground. Turns out that all the soil is too hard to dig so we sprayed water on it. We also kept spraying ourselves with water and got covered in mud. KV

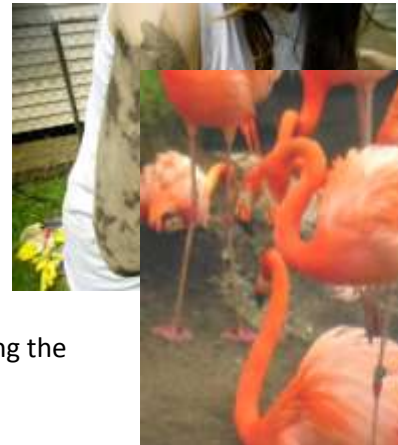


volunteers and, because of the long growing season, they can enjoy fresh produce for most of the year. We were divided into two groups and went with other volunteers to install gardens. One crew was sent to the 9th ward; they met a resident and helped her install a garden. Her house was heavily damaged by the flood and she has taken out a large loan to correct the damage to her home. She is one of the



first residents back in the area and we were happy to help her. The other groups were sent to another neighbor and tried to dig a garden for planting but the ground was hard clay. Attempts were made to loosen the clay with water but this only succeeded in making a mess.

Members of this group all made the best of it and they ended up preparing the ground for a potted garden.



After we were finished installing gardens, we had the afternoon off and went to the Audubon Zoo. The class had a good time touring and communing with the animals.

Evening activities have consisted of writing in our journals, reading, resting in the dorms, and using the rest of the facilities here for games of hide and seek. It is quite a place for this activity. It is a little dark and there are numerous passageways and crevices to hide in.

