

## ***Bringing Color Back to New Orleans***

*AkzoNobel employees team up with community group to repaint homes*

STRONGSVILLE, November 22, 2011 – Six years after Hurricane Katrina, the color is still coming back to colorful New Orleans. And AkzoNobel is helping.

As part of an ongoing, communitywide revitalization effort, about 20 employees from six local Glidden Professional Paint Centers recently teamed up to help paint eight homes in a lower-income neighborhood in the small town of Covington, across Lake Ponchartrain from the famed Crescent City.

AkzoNobel donated approximately 400 gallons of paint and primer, as well as brushes, rollers and roller frames.

“It’s our responsibility as a corporation to help those who cannot do a lot to help themselves,” reflects Jim Montour, Glidden Professional district manager. “We need to give back to the less fortunate in our community, and we saw this as an opportunity to step in and improve the appearance of these people’s houses.”

Jim points out that the district sets an annual community service objective. Just about the time he and his colleagues were discussing what to do this year, one of the Glidden Professional stores was approached by Justin Padway, representing Renaissance Neighborhood Development Corporation (RNDC).

“Everything just happened at the right time,” says Jim. “Justin was inquiring about paint donations for a community service project, and we were more than willing to get involved.”

RNDC is a locally managed, locally governed subsidiary of Volunteers of America, one of the nation’s oldest, largest and most comprehensive human services charities. RNDC’s goal is to create 1,000 units of workforce housing in post-Katrina neighborhoods that are close to jobs, have good access to basic commercial services and are well-served by public transportation.

Eight homes in Covington’s West 30s neighborhood were targeted for painting over two weekends in early October.

As the time for the project approached, the homeowners selected paint colors from the Glidden palette. Meanwhile, Gordon Disotell, manager of Store 679, spearheaded the coordination of paint, primer and materials to ensure a successful project.

The AkzoNobel employees were among a volunteer army of more than 100 community members, including people from Volunteers of America, Home Works of America and members of a local church.

The first weekend was devoted to prep work, as the volunteers pressure-washed the houses, sanded surfaces and replaced deteriorated wood. A week later, they returned and were able to finish priming and painting seven houses and part of the eighth.

“It was a very satisfying experience,” says Jim. “The people of RNDC, Volunteers of America and the other organizations were easy to work with, and their missions are similar to AkzoNobel’s mission to serve others. We look forward to working together on future projects.”

Learn more about [Renaissance Neighborhood Development Corporation](#)

Below are some photos from the volunteer experience.



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