



## Houston Volunteers in Mission Team (Karen Kirwan, Charlotte Kirwan, Debbie & Bob Gillette, Jon Gillette, James & Nicole Gillette, Cathy & Scott Milligan)

**What were your impressions of the church that hosted our team of volunteers?**  
*The church was phenomenal, provided great hospitality, and the pastor and staff truly cared about us and how our day went. We were thankful that we were able to help the*

*host church out on our day off.*

### **What did you learn from the host church?**

*Some of the things we learned were how to be good hosts, the importance of going out of your way to be hospitable, that you don't have to provide dinner to be a good host, and how to work within your community and for your community. Our host church told us stories about helping during/after Harvey and the community gatherings they held to bring everyone together.*

### **What was the biggest surprise of the week for you?**

*A good surprise was that one of the neighbors served us a chicken lunch on the last day as a way to thank us and help us out. We were also surprised by the amount of devastation that is still here, how the home we were working on and the neighborhood were affected by more than just Harvey, and that more people aren't here to help with repairs when the work is essential to get our brothers and sisters in Christ back in their homes.*

### **What image or memory of the week will stick with you?**

*The team was struck by how much the house meant to the homeowner and why we were repairing it instead of just tearing it down since her deceased husband had been rebuilding the house before Harvey hit.*

### **What was your favorite part of the schedule each day?**

*Some of our favorite moments included having the guys do the dishes, James' devotion, shower time at the Lifetime Fitness, and knowing that everyday we were moving this house one step closer to be inhabitable.*

**What was the most rewarding part of the week?** *It was rewarding to meet the homeowner and her neighbors and see how impactful the work we were doing was on their lives. Also, showing our homeowner and her family that God hasn't forgotten about her.*

### **What was the hardest part of the week?**

*Some of the things that were difficult for us included mudding the corners, the heat, and seeing how the house wasn't being done to the standard that we would like to do it. Also noted was the rain delay and how hard that made it to bring the house to a point that we felt comfortable leaving it in and also how difficult it was to leave when the house wasn't completed and trusting that someone else is going to keep doing the work.*



### **Did you have any God sightings?**

*How thankful and overwhelmed our homeowner was that God's hands and feet were at work ❖ The grateful people at Lifetime Fitness ❖ Cathy and her oversight of the food ❖ Charlotte Ann always being willing to screw in one more screw ❖ Karen who would always pick up a mudding bucket ❖ Jonathan always willing to put forth the work ethic ❖ Debbie who always was trying to get the most exact measurement ❖ Bob who was willing to pick any job that was left undone ❖ Scott who took what was available to him to complete our task*

### **What were your impressions of the resident whose house you worked on?**

*Our resident was humble, overwhelmed, moved by what we had done, and fragile.*

### **What were some lessons from the trip?**

*We learned no matter how small the project, it still means a ton to the resident, so don't slack off. The group before us didn't do their best job, so the resident and UMCOR were nervous about our group. Thankfully, we finished our portion! We are one piece of the puzzle and you might want to do other tasks, but it is important to keep in mind the bigger plan and not just do what we think is right or needed.*

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