

= New Waveland Cafe and Clinic =

The New Waveland Café and New Waveland Clinic together formed a disaster response center consisting of a combination café , soup kitchen , medical clinic , donation center , and market , that operated free of charge from September 5 to December 1 , 2005 in immediate Post @-@ Katrina Mississippi Gulf Coast in Waveland , Hancock County , Mississippi . The cafe and clinic were founded in response to Hurricane Katrina and provided free food and free medical care to hurricane victims for three months . They were located in tents in the parking lot of Fred 's Department Store at 790 Hwy 90 in Waveland , across the street from the destroyed and gutted Waveland Police Department . The New Waveland Cafe served three free meals every day to thousands of residents and volunteers . The New Waveland Clinic provided free health care to over 5 @, @ 500 patient contacts . As well , a group of hippies and Christians came together to form a unique group which worked together to provide emergency relief .

= = Impact of Katrina = =

Hancock County is an ocean @-@ side county situated in Southern Mississippi . As such , it has a long history of hurricanes . In 1969 the county was leveled by Hurricane Camille .

In 2000 the county had a population of 42 @, @ 967 . A vast majority of this population was exposed to the harsh effects of Hurricane Katrina . Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the US Gulf Coast on August 29 , 2005 as a Category 3 hurricane . The town of Waveland was destroyed and has been described as " worst punishment Katrina could mete out " . Official reports stated that approximately 50 people died when Waveland was hit directly by the eyewall of Katrina and the 32 @-@ foot (9 @. @ 8 m) storm surge . Hurricane Katrina came ashore during the high tide of 8 : 01AM , + 2 @. @ 2 feet more . Hurricane Katrina damaged over 40 Mississippi libraries . The Waveland Public Library was a total loss requiring a complete rebuild .

= = Cafe = =

The cafe originated when friends from the Rainbow Family began to communicate with each other about a possible response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina . The Rainbow Family are best known for the Rainbow Gathering , a large , primitive type camping event in which up to 20 @, @ 000 people attend . Those who attend these gatherings have become skilled at making and serving food for extremely large groups of people for long periods of time and in very basic situations . The cafe operated free of charge and was supported solely by donations . The cafe served up to 4000 meals three times a day . The volunteers who built and ran the cafe were all attendees of Rainbow Gatherings . As attendees of Rainbow Gatherings , the cafe volunteers often appeared to look like hippies . They were reported to have " piercings " and " dreadlocks " .

= = Clinic = =

The New Waveland Clinic was a temporary emergency clinic set up by Brad " Baruch " Stone on August 28 , 2005 and housed in tents . Stone used his skills as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and previous experiences as a volunteer coordinator at the CALM Medical Clinic in order to build and administrate the clinic . The clinic recruited volunteer doctors , medical students , nurses , pharmacists , EMTs and paramedics from different parts of the United States to volunteer for a week at a time . Medications and medical tools were donated by dozens of organizations including Pfizer , which donated the majority of the medications used . During its three months of operation , the clinic had over 5 @, @ 500 documented patient encounters .

The clinic was equipped and staffed by physicians specializing in family medicine , internal medicine , pediatrics and psychiatry . The clinic operated primarily as a walk @-@ in clinic where patients could see a doctor for all complaints and receive free medication . Due to the lack of a functioning emergency room the clinic was sometimes utilized as a facility to stabilize a patient while

an ambulance was en route to transport the patient to an emergency room . The closest hospitals were 42 miles (68 km) to the west at the Louisiana Heart Hospital in Lacombe , Louisiana or the Northshore Medical Center in Slidell , Louisiana , or 35 miles (56 km) to the east at the Gulfport Memorial Hospital in Gulfport , Mississippi . The local hospital , Hancock County Medical Center , was incapacitated due to the hurricane . There were no X @-@ ray or blood laboratory available with the exception of urinalysis testing strips and glucometers . As such physicians were described to be practicing battlefield medicine in a M.A.S.H. unit .

= = Volunteers = =

A unique bond between two very disparate groups was formed as a result of the hurricane . Two groups , the Bastrop Christian Outreach Center (BCOC) and attendees of the counter @-@ culture Rainbow Gathering , arrived around the same time in Waveland . The BCOC efforts were led by Reverend Colonel Pete and Fay Jones who were among some of the first responders . Each group represented very different philosophies and had little common faith , each was able to put aside their differences and focus entirely on their humanitarian efforts . The cooperation between the two groups was described as " unlikely " , a " bunch of hippies and evangelical Christians " and the " unlikeliest of bedfellows " .

= = Facilities = =

As all buildings and structures were destroyed due to the high winds and flooding , the entire relief effort took place under temporary , tent @-@ based structures . The cafe was housed in a large geodesic dome , usually found at the Burning Man festival .

The clinic originally started with two tents purchased at a supermarket . After 3 weeks of operation a 20 @-@ foot @-@ long (6 @.@ 1 m) , 10 @-@ foot @-@ tall (3 @.@ 0 m) tent was donated and erected . A month later an additional 40 @-@ foot @-@ long (12 m) , 10 @-@ foot @-@ tall (3 @.@ 0 m) was added on .