

Katrina victims shouldn't -- and can't -- go it alone

March 19, 2006

HAVING JUST RETURNED from a week of relief work in East Biloxi, Miss., I appreciated your article "[With Mass. help, homes grow amid ruins](#)" (Page A1, March 13). I was with a group of 14 from around the country organized by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The fact is that without volunteers, there would be no recovery.

The federal government is nowhere to be found on the ground. And Katrina victims have few resources.

The insurance companies are claiming it was a flood, not a storm surge, and so residents with homeowners' insurance but not flood insurance are not being covered.

There are a number of volunteer groups doing great work in East Biloxi. Noticeably absent is the Red Cross.

Many college kids, including Boston College students on break, came with the Hands-On Network. The Salvation Army is housing volunteers in tents and makes lunch every day.

There's a lot yet to be done, but real recovery will take years.

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