



TotaLand Helps to Rebuild Louisiana Bigger and Better

By Michele Day, TotaLand Marketing Specialist



“We are saddened by the losses from Louisiana’s historic flood and our prayers go out to everyone affected by the flood,” said TotaLand’s President Alan Day and CIO of Fenstermaker. “TotaLand and Fenstermaker are here to help rebuild Louisiana bigger and better.”

Louisiana is not only known for delicious Cajun food such as crawfish etouffee, alligator jambalaya, and seafood gumbo, Louisiana is now known as the state where family and friends come together to rebuild a bigger and even better community and TotaLand is there to help!

TotaLand, headquartered in the heart of Lafayette, Louisiana, was in the midst of the 500-year historic flood that damaged over 40,000 homes and killed 13 people. Everyone watched in sadness as the inland tropical depression stalled over Louisiana for three days dumping over 31 inches of rain and filling up homes with water, fish, and even dangerous water moccasin snakes.

TotaLand’s GIS Specialist Brennan Cummings said, “My heart is broken for my friends and family in my hometown of Baton Rouge and for all those in the Acadiana area that have experienced such a crisis.” Cummings added, “If you walk through certain neighborhoods in South Louisiana it looks like a war-zone. However, I continue to be amazed at the support of our community, and how we are all coming together to help in any way we can. It makes me very proud to call Louisiana my home.”



Nine rivers crested at record levels and the National Weather Service warned that the rivers would be in a flood stage for days, not hours. Dump trucks, military vehicles, boats, fire engines, and the famous Cajun Navy rescued thousands of people who were taken to various rescue centers equipped with cots, food, clothing, and water. The Louisiana National Guard mobilized 1,700 soldiers to help and military

police assisted local law enforcement with security. Gov. John Bel Edwards said that at least 20,000 people have been rescued and at least 10,000 people have been moved to shelters.



Baton Rouge Resident Cleve Brown was quoted as saying, “Basically, we lost everything, you know, other than our lives. In a couple of hours, we probably had six-foot of water. Water is probably one of the worst Mother Nature beasts there is.”

Senior Technical Account Manager Melissa Jackson said, “Although I do not reside in Louisiana, many that I call family do. I have seen God shine

through these people multiple times over the last few years that I have worked for TotalLand. Even in the midst of the recent crisis my heart is filled with joy at the outpouring of love from such a tremendous community. You are in the hearts, thoughts, and prayers of Texas.”

The TotalLand team was out in full force cleaning debris, rebuilding homes, cooking meals, bringing water, supplies, and Lowe’s gift cards. Jamie Castille, TotalLand’s Account Specialist and President of the St. Martinville Kiwanis Club and Rotary Club immediately jumped in to help restore his community by providing supplies and hands-on labor. Helping others is just a way-of-life for Castille who regularly reaches out to others not only during disasters but throughout the year. Castille said, "You don't need a reason to help people."

TotalLand’s Marketing Specialist Michele Day said, “We are helping rebuild Louisiana one house at a time. Day added, “Our kids are right there with us cleaning, cooking, building, bringing supplies... We taught them, ‘to those who are given much, much will be required.’”

Others who worked hard on the rescue and recovery are the Cajun Navy. Local Louisiana neighborhood residents, known as the Cajun Navy, pulled out their jon boats, motorboats and even canoes through south Louisiana's flood-made waterways, to save cats, dogs, and people. They even handed out sandwiches and sports drinks.

Troy Green, from Ascension Parish just south of Baton Rouge, loaded up his boat after hearing the Cajun Navy needed a few good sailors. He drove to East Baton Rouge Parish where the National Guard had a staging area. "I am here to help," he said. "Where do you need me?" They paired him with a local man and the two spent a full day pulling people, at least two of them in wheelchairs, out of flooded houses.



FEMA, United Way, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, charities, and many churches are running shelters, distributing supplies, and feeding a lot of people.

TotaLand CRM Account Specialist Joan Coffey said, "My heart and prayers go out to all in Louisiana. Out of difficulties grow miracles."

If you want to help, visit volunteerlouisiana.gov the online network that connects local and out-of-state volunteers with opportunities to help.