



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Calcasieu Area, Inc.

P.O. Box 638

Lake Charles, LA 70602

Lee Stevens

February 7, 2006

Dear Lee,

What a delightful surprise to hear from you! I have been so touched by the outpouring of generosity from people from all over the United States, but absolutely bowled over by your offer to return beauty to a ravaged area! How sensitive of you and others in your group to think about the fact that the South, which prides itself for beautiful gardens, has gone through a destructive force that removed beauty from so many lives.

I know so many people, my own mother included, who have been deeply and adversely affected by Katrina and Rita's wrath. My mother loved her yard and, at 82, still does all her own gardening. Since the hurricane she has been so depressed by how awful she thinks her yard looks. There are deep ruts left by the people who cleared the fallen trees and her azaleas are crushed, and she grieves daily for those losses.

Cameron, a coastal town not far from Lake Charles, was completely destroyed, with nothing left to indicate that a house and yard even existed. All vegetation was destroyed by the tidal surge, the orange trees stripped, any plants scalded by the saltwater.

People from our area are trying to return to "normal": houses are being re-roofed, fences replaced, FEMA trailers are everywhere and we are fixing whatever insurance will cover. But there is still something missing and our souls are tired. Your gift of roses will bring beauty back into the lives of people who have lost so much. Your roses will bring hope, beauty and a sense of peace to people who have lost sight of these things. Your generous offer of beauty will help people remember "normal".

I am so excited that you called and we can be a part of this restoration of beauty to our battered southern communities. Thank you so much, Lee, for thinking of us.

Bless you,
Ginette Evans
Executive Director