

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHY HOMES

Working for Affordable Healthy Housing for All



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Alliance for Healthy Homes Contributes to New Book about Race, Class, and Hurricane Katrina

WASHINGTON—Several staff members from the Alliance for Healthy Homes—Executive Director Robert O. Zdenek, Community Projects Director Ralph Scott, Housing Policy Director Jane Malone, and Communications and Media Relations Director Brian Gumm—are authors of a chapter about strategies for safe and healthy rebuilding of housing in devastated working class communities in the new book *There Is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class, and Hurricane Katrina*. The book, edited by Chester Hartman of the Poverty and Race Research Action Council and Gregory D. Squires of George Washington University, is published by Routledge and is now available.

The Alliance staff's chapter, "Reclaiming New Orleans' Working-Class Communities," argues that smart, safe, and healthy recovery and rebuilding is possible and necessary in the communities affected by the storm. The chapter discusses the conditions necessary for successful rebuilding, makes the case for citizen participation in all neighborhood and citywide planning, and looks at the rebuilding process as an opportunity for reducing race and class disparities.

The book chapter is one part of the Alliance's larger healthy homes hurricane rebuilding work. The Alliance has delivered "train the trainer" workshops to more than 50 local partner organizations in the New Orleans area on safe and effective methods for ridding flooded but structurally sound homes of mold and debris. The Alliance also is partnering with building experts to promote affordable flood-resistant rebuilding strategies. The Alliance has published a hurricane recovery guidebook, available at www.afhh.org/res/res_publications.htm#hurricanerecovery.

To schedule an interview with any of the chapter's authors, please contact Brian Gumm at 202-543-1147 or bgumm@afhh.org. For more information about the book, contact Routledge at 1-800-634-7064.