



March 3, 2009

## Free trees rebuild damage

*From staff reports*

Native Louisiana trees will be given away throughout hurricane-affected areas of Louisiana during March.

The tree giveaway is sponsored by the Resurrection Project, an interfaith collaborative recovery effort to rebuild communities damaged by the hurricanes of recent years.

The program includes construction projects, said the Rev. Marilee Baccich, rebuilding coordinator of the Resurrection Project. It also includes a replanting effort.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Baton Rouge originated the tree giveaway. The Arbor Day Foundation has donated 25,000 tree seedlings from 7 inches to 3 feet in height. Trees include live oak, red oak, red maple and bald cypress.

Trees are important in hurricane-prone areas because they provide a natural windbreak that can slow down the wind speed of a storm.

But they are also important for other reasons.

"One of the items of our mission is not only to do houses, but to do a home. Having a tree, having something green and living does a lot toward making a home," Baccich said.

## Additional Facts

Free tree locations

Free tree seedlings will be given away at these locations:

- Noon-3 p.m. Thursday, Vermilion Parish Library, 405 St. Victor St., Abbeville
  - 1-3 p.m. Friday, Delcambre Branch Library, 206 W. Main St., Delcambre
  - 1-3 p.m. Saturday, outside Casa Azul Gift Shop, 234 Martin Luther King, Grand Coteau
  - 8 a.m.-1 p.m. March 14, Iberia Parish Library, St. Peter Street branch
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