Not all New Orleanians live in New Orleans. Some have always lived elsewhere but visit New Orleans when they can and, through some inexplicable bonding, come to feel something deeper and more personal than a tourist's connection while they're here.

So it is, apparently, with Kim Fancher, an interior designer of upscale vacation homes in the ski resort town of Frisco, Colo. Her visits to the city have made her a lover of New Orleans. She has ridden in the Orpheus and Zulu parades. A blue fleur-de-lis flag, the symbol of New Orleans' recovery, flies at her Colorado home.

Yet the condition of the city still breaks her heart. So Sunday she watched as volunteers unloaded two 18-wheelers stuffed with toilets, doors, windows, appliances and other building materials she arranged to have donated to the people of Chalmette by Colorado homebuilders.

And nearly 10 months after Hurricane Katrina, the scope of the continuing
private relief effort can be gauged this way: Fancher's donated Colorado material was unloaded at a Chalmette storage facility by volunteers from a Tennessee church beginning a weekend of free labor gutting homes in St. Bernard Parish.

The 30 or so Tennesseans from Highland Heights Church of Christ in Smyrna, Tenn., are among hundreds of volunteers rotating through Chalmette each week to gut homes under the auspices of Hilltop Rescue and Relief, an evangelical ministry based in El Segundo, Calif.

The unfolding of another gesture of generosity toward New Orleans began months ago, when Fancher returned to the city for Mardi Gras -- her first visit since Katrina.

She drove into the city through the vast wreckage of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

She was stunned, she said -- then stunned anew by what she saw in a tour of New Orleans' flood zone. She displayed the common shock that New Orleanians have come to recognize in all their visitors.

On a tour of New Orleans' flood zone, "I spent an hour and a half in the car going, 'Oh, my God!' I went back to Colorado and I kept telling people,
"What you see on TV doesn't begin to register the devastation."

Through her work as a designer, Kancher knows most of the major homebuilders in hometown Summit County, Colo., where she's on the board of the local homebuilders association.

She told them the New Orleans area still badly needed help. She pointed out that they all had unused building materials in local warehouses.

"We're an upscale community. Lots of people there are building multimillion-dollar vacation homes, and it's not so unusual from them to say, 'I don't like that door, after all. Change it out.' Or, 'Let's pull out these windows and try some others.'"

"I asked, 'If I organize this, will you donate building materials?'"

They jumped aboard, she said. Their one stipulation: Their stuff goes straight into the hands of needy homeowners, not to contractors or others for resale.

As word spread about Frisco, ordinary citizens sought to donate goods. Others volunteered to drive.
"The support was amazing," she said.

Rummaging about for more help, Fancher found that Wal-Mart was willing to donate two 18-wheelers and two drivers to haul the goods from Frisco to . . . where?

After a small flurry of e-mail inquiries, news that Fancher's shipment was looking for a home crossed the desk of Polly Boudreaux, the clerk of the St. Bernard Parish Council.

Boudreaux wrote Fancher that St. Bernard homeowners badly needed building materials. Thousands of ruined houses are still open to the elements.

"We have an absolutely urgent need for windows and doors so homeowners can secure their homes," Boudreaux said.

So Boudreaux on Sunday took delivery on behalf of the Parish Council at a site that all parties asked not be disclosed because the materials are valuable.

The parish will develop a process for distributing the doors, windows, dishwashers, sinks, tile, lumber, molding and other supplies, Boudreaux said. She said residents should monitor the parish's Web site, www.sbpg.net
And soon Fancher will return to Summit County, though another relief mission may be in the future, she said. Builders in Denver, 70 miles to the east, have heard about the first trip and have asked whether they can help, Fancher said.

"People still want to help," she said.