

Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

From Tragedy to Triumph

The Opportunity

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana's first priority was to relieve suffering and provide basic human necessities for those in need. The Diocese was instrumental in the relief effort, distributing food, water and providing shelter to thousands.

However, in the midst of helping individual parishioners and the rest of the community, the Diocese was also suffering. Churches, Diocesan offices and clergy homes were heavily damaged or worse—completely destroyed. Without a strong infrastructure of parishes, clergy, staff and facilities, the Diocese found it near impossible to continue operating within the community. With no congregations to support it and little staff, the institutional integrity of the Diocese was at risk.

The Partnership

After meeting the immediate needs of the community, the Diocese shifted its focus. Post-Katrina, the Diocese felt it needed to renew the hearts, minds and faith of the community—but it must balance that effort, knowing it must also rebuild its schools, parishes, and missions.

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana selected Suddes Partners to facilitate the development of an overall strategy and vision for the Diocese in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. This was no small assignment. Congregation members were scattered across the country, children were without a school to attend, clergy were without means of income and church facilities were in all stages of disarray—from minor damage to complete devastation. It was imperative to quickly clarify and prioritize all efforts to stabilize the Diocese.

The Success

Suddes Partners worked with the Diocese to capture and prioritize this monumental task—developing five strategic objectives and 11 key priority initiatives to be undertaken by the Diocese. These initiatives had to address all Diocesan needs—immediate, near-term and long-term.

Suddes Partners developed a comprehensive case for funding support for all areas of financial need. Suddes Partners worked with the Episcopal Church Office of Communication to begin the process of disseminating the Diocesan message and its strategy for rebuilding after Katrina.

The Diocese is now positioned to rebuild with a structured vision for the future—allowing meaningful growth and outreach to overcome the disastrous effects of Hurricane Katrina.

