

## Disaster Restoration Business Founder Lends a Hand

Kenya, AFRICA (September, 2009) -- There are many areas of Africa where people are impoverished by lack of food, clean water, and proper medical attention. The unfortunate result is that thousands of men, women and children are suffering from starvation, disease/infection, and HIV/AIDS. One urban market town that is trying to make a change is Naivasha, a 400,000 populated region about an hour's drive from the capital city of Kenya.

Naivasha, Kenya is home to a local organization called Upendo Village that is headed by Sister Florence Muia and her staff. Upendo means love in the local language Kiswahili. People in need come to Upendo Village for love and support through resources which will enable them to become more self-sufficient. Upendo Village relies on missionary groups to achieve some of these aims.

José Cruz, founder of [J.C. Restoration, Inc.](#) in Rolling Meadows, Illinois has been a missionary for over five years for the Catholic Construction Corps, a division of the [Partnership in Mission Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Illinois](#). He is just one of many individuals who have dedicated their time and efforts to becoming a volunteer; for the good of mankind.

In September, a team of thirty-four diocese members traveled to Naivasha and the Upendo Village for a two-week stay. This was the second trip for José to this area. There were four other individuals with construction capabilities, and the remaining had medical training. Building materials and medicine were donated to the cause through the Diocese and the Rotary Club of Naperville.

One of the group's goals was to build four houses made of corrugated metal materials— two 30ft. x 12 ft. and two 20ft. x 12 ft. The interiors were divided into three small rooms for families of as many as seven people. Their other goal was to provide much needed health care to thousands. 120 operating procedures were performed, and 1,200 examinations were given.

Despite their never-ending struggles, the people of Naivasha remain hopeful as progress is slowly being made due to such efforts of the Upendo Village and the volunteers of mission groups.

### *Beyond the Diocese:*

When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, José was there to assist with the city's disaster restoration efforts. His mission trips have also brought him to Bolivia, Ecuador, and Navajo Reservations in New Mexico. José says he's ready for next year's mission, although he's not sure where his travels will take him. A heart-felt José explains, "I like to serve others. That's what God teaches me. I've been blessed with my work and my family, so in some way I'd like to share." He also spends his time volunteering at his church by working in soup kitchens and programs such as [Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc. \(P.A.D.S.\)](#)

In April 2009, José was awarded the English as a Second Language Success Award for his outstanding work in the adult volunteer literacy program.

It is apparent that José Cruz is a man who is dedicated to his passion for serving the less fortunate. It is an endearing quality that adds to his already down-to-Earth, good-natured personality, and one to admire.

### **About J.C. Restoration**

J.C. Restoration is one of the fastest growing independent restoration companies in the Midwest. For over 25 years, JCR has been providing top quality service, training, and support -- earning it an exemplary reputation among its clients, customers, and peers. To learn more about J.C. Restoration please call 800.956.8844 or visit [jcr24.com](#).

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