

Letter from Gabe Tischler (thanking recent Common Venture volunteers)  
Gabe is Disaster Coordinator in the Joplin office, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri.

Hello Sister Marie, and Fr. Jack,

I really don't know how to express my gratitude for all you have done. What a whirlwind of a week it was. Everyone on the team did such a great job, they communicated, worked hard and accomplished more than I could ever hope for in a week's time. I have to tell you both, and please pass this on; the last crew who worked this well together and provided this quality of work, was a contractor, who came in to frame a house back in September.

Everyone on the team worked well together, there were no disagreements, there were no egos getting in the way. Expertise was recognized by each team member, and they were not afraid to consult with each other to get ideas, and advice. This unity shined, and enabled the team to accomplish a great deal this past week and make a huge difference on the projects they worked on. I'm sure Fr. Jack will fill you in, but I wanted to provide you with a short list of what has been accomplished on three homes.

First and foremost, Fr. Jack you were absolutely awesome! You were my go-to-man for the whole week. Anytime I needed anything done at all, (things I did not have time to do) or would have had to stop the million other duties I have during each day, you were there to help. From running after material, hauling windows, Sheetrock, OSB board, lumber, trash, fixing heaters or a thousand other things I asked you to do...you were there. Without your help it would have been very difficult to accomplish anything else last week, other than taking care of your team. So thank you Fr. Jack - by doing this, you enabled me to help many other disaster survivors this past week. Just so you know we received three other requests for help with rebuilding last week. Your assistance allowed me the time to meet with these folks and give them some hope, provide them with a vision of a brighter future.....there is a light at the end of their tunnel! I woke up last night, with the thought: these homes are being totally built on faith, the faith that God will provide, and He has, from the very first day, and I know He will continue to do so....all we have to do is keep our faith and prayers.

The team worked on three homes last week and accomplished the following: Part of the team cleaned the home on Monroe, hauled gravel and sand, so we could move the home owner in his house.

Finished hanging sheet rock on the New Hampshire home, and repaired many past mistakes there, which enabled the sheet rock finisher to come in and get started. Of course clean up from the clean up crew!

Helped on the home on Pennsylvania to be ready for final inspection, including hanging interior doors, trim work, finished installing hardwood floors (donated/acquired free) laying down carpet, finished basement walls and many other small things which needed done. And of course clean up from the clean up crew.

Another Pennsylvania home had structural supports installed, a wall taken down, and rebuilt, bathroom walls were built, installed exterior door, doors and headers framed out,(we can now actually lock the house up,) and all the windows in the home were installed. We even rented a high-lift for them to be able to install upstairs windows, (I wouldn't have trusted too many other folks to work from one of those) and of course clean up every day from the clean up crew.

I am sure I left something off this list; things they repaired or built on their own that they found which needed done.

An amazing amount of work was accomplished! Thank you so much Sister and Father for making this happen. Thanks to you, all this was accomplished in five days! Compared to the many other crews, who have worked with us, this team, by far was the absolute best! No wonder though...they were Knights, and Franciscans!

Thank you both and thank everyone for me again please. I can't wait to work with you again.

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The following 13 Common Venture volunteers traveled to Joplin, MO to serve in home reconstruction following the May 22 tornado that destroyed the town. They were in Joplin from December 10 thru 17, 2011.

**Dubuque, IA:**

Luke Gilligan  
Rev. Jack Paisley  
Garry Redman

**From McGregor, IA:**

Jim Keehner

**Waterloo, IA:**

Zach Clabby  
Jim Garret  
Reggie Schmitt

**Cedar Rapids, IA:**

Merle Ries

**McGregor, IA:**

Dave Sanger

**New Hampton, IA:**

Kevin Flick

**Earlville, IA:**

Steve Leibold

**Hiawatha, IA:**

Chuck Luster

**Smithville, MO**

Ken Hansen