

## **Hurricane Katrina Oral History Project**

### Questions

Let's start by talking about your childhood: where were you born and what do you remember about your early years?

What was the family like when you were a child? Entertainment? Church life? How many siblings?

What kind of work did your parents do?

Tell me about your school life: Where did you attend school and what was it like?

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

What kind of work do you do for a living? Trace your career.

What parish are you from? Is religion/spirituality important in your life? Explain.

When did you first hear that the storm was approaching?

Explain what happened from your first knowledge of the storm until it ended.

Explain what happened when the levees broke?

When did you leave the area? Trace your route.

Overall, how do you feel the government handled the hurricane and its aftermath?

How did the community respond to the news that the storm was approaching? Was it different from other storms?

Did you know your neighbors? Who were they?

How bad was the damage in your neighborhood?

The big issue in the media was "who is to blame." Was/is that important?

How do you feel about the mayor's response to the crisis?

Governor?

Federal government?

FEMA?

Did you receive any assistance from FEMA? When? Did it meet your needs?

FEMA took a lot of the blame for being slow and un-prepared to deal with the situation, was that justified in your opinion?

What has sustained you throughout the entire catastrophe?

Who were some of the major players in the local community dealing with the situation?

After the storm, there was a lot of chaos, how do you feel about the police response?

In hindsight, is there anything else that could have been done that could have possibly saved lives?

How did you decide to come to Las Vegas? Did any other family members come with you? What happened when you arrived?

Describe some of the major difference between New Orleans and Las Vegas?

Did you have property insurance? Renter's insurance?

What kind of response have you received from your insurance company?

Have you traveled back to New Orleans since the storm? Describe what you saw.

Do you plan to return to New Orleans to live?

Do you think your old neighborhood will ever be as it was?

Where are you living currently? How permanent?

What are your future plans?

Do you keep in contact with people in your old neighborhood?