

## Ohlone helping storm victims

By ANNA NEMCHUK  
News editor

Katrina raged its warpath in New Orleans, but people all over have felt the effects, including the Ohlone campus.

The Pham family mentioned in the *Monitor* last week has settled into a hotel suite provided by the Red Cross for two weeks. The four kids are in school and say they like it. They have not heard anything more about a missing aunt and brother, or any insurance information.

"Thank God we left early, so we're okay. A lot of people were dying," remarked Jennifer Pham.

The family walked into Ohlone's One-Stop Center in Newark early last week, and received help from Tina Dodson and her staff. It was news to them that the Newark Center was a federal aid site, apparently because it receives funding from the Department of Labor.

Altanette Ford, an Ohlone student and part of the *Monitor's* staff, also remained unable to contact some family members. Her cousin Beatrice Robinson, was caught in New Orleans and eventually evacu-

ated to Las Vegas. Transported to a convention center, they were allowed to take just a little food; the meat and crackers soon ran out, and the 3-4 days spent at the center until the National Guard arrived were bereft of food, water, electricity and functioning plumbing.

"I saw so many people die right beside me, babies, babies," Robinson lamented.

Robinson said the electricity in her region went out before the hurricane hit, forcing her to suspect it was turned off purposefully.

"They didn't want the people to know what was going on. The rich people got out; we didn't have cars but we could have found some kind of way. Then people couldn't get out - the water came up, and we weren't warned about it," said Robinson.

At the convention center, the refugees were told buses would come for them.

"Bus after bus passed by us, and they never come, finally national guards came and then busses came. They didn't care; they didn't care at all. I think the president should have ordered the National Guard; I think nobody ordered them to come.



New Orleans storm victims helped by Ohlone agency: top row, from left, Michael Pham, Jennifer Pham, Tina Dodson, Tuyet Pham, Cong Pham  
Bottom row, from left: Tien Pham and Khuong Tran

I don't think the government handled it well, what would happen to us again (if we went back)? I saw today where the congressman said that he went back to check on his house, and we're sittin' out there,

and you, why is your house more important than all these people's lives?" said Robinson.

The family couldn't locate Robinson's ex-husband or grandchildren.

Her son, who helped pay for the ticket that took her to Las Vegas, saw her ex-husband's backyard on the news, flooded to the top.

"I'm gonna try, but it hasn't been easy so far," stated Robinson.

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