

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch – Before and After the Katrina Flood



The Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch served the students of Martin Luther King, Jr. School and residents of the Lower Ninth Ward, the neighborhood most damaged by the flooding that followed Hurricane Katrina. Breaches in the Industrial Canal floodwall sent at least ten feet of water surging through the neighborhood. The water line is visible in the “after” photograph.

Eight branches of the New Orleans Public Library were ruined by Katrina and the flood. The effect was the same in each: Carpets of mud and mold covered floors, walls, books, furniture, equipment. Renovation begins by completely gutting the interior to eradicate mold, and continues with replacement of walls, floors, wiring, contents.

Total damage to all New Orleans libraries is at least \$21 million. Our goal is to “build back better” with new facilities and technology. We do not plan to “return to normal” but to create a model urban library system. In the Campaign’s initial year, we raised \$2.1 million and renovated two small libraries. Bookmobiles and temporary libraries arrive soon.

To learn more, contact:

Tania Tetlow, President, New Orleans Public Library Foundation ([ttetlow@tulane.edu](mailto:ttetlow@tulane.edu))

Ron Biava, Campaign Consultant, ([ronbiava@earthlink.net](mailto:ronbiava@earthlink.net))

Robin Goldblum, Development Coordinator (504 596 2615, [rgoldblu@gno.lib.la.us](mailto:rgoldblu@gno.lib.la.us))