

Devastating KATRINA



Custom Mobile Food Equipment sold a 53' Mobile Kitchen to **Operation Blessing** on August 16th, 2005. No one could have imagined how valuable this piece of equipment was going to be.

Once Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, **Operation Blessing** began preparations to move their newly purchase 53' Mobile Kitchen to Slidell. Since, it was their first time using the unit they requested any assistance that we could provide. Immediately, we deployed Dan Alvarez. Dan is the head of our propane department and a service technician with experience in

Disasters. He has been employed at Custom for over twenty years. Previously he was deployed to assist the Salvation Army with their equipment after 911 and Hurricane Ivan in Florida.

On September 6th Dan was first in Meridian, MS at a Naval Air Station doing an emergency training session on a mobile kitchen the military purchased to feed the National Guardsmen. After such time, **Operation Blessing** picked him up to take him to Slidell. While driving, they passed through towns like Waveland, MS that was "just devastated from the hurricane."



Dan arrived at the trailer and immediately initiated a start-up procedure on the kitchen. In a short period of time the Mobile Kitchen was "alive" and feeding thousands. His mission was complete. Or was it...?



Instead of just getting back home, Dan knew that **Operation Blessing** could use any help that they could get during this time of disaster. He got on the phone and called Bill Sikora, owner of Custom Mobile Food Equipment, and explained to him that the unit was running perfectly but, he wanted to extend his trip until September 12th. Bill agreed and was immensely proud of Dan for his dedication to such a worthy cause.

The next days included being with the Kitchen around the clock. Dan, oversaw the mechanical components of the trailer, unloaded product, helped prepare meals, served meals and directed traffic. Now his mission was complete.

During his time with **Operation Blessing**, Dan saw extreme desperation first hand. He also saw humanity in its purest form. He grew as person and made life long friends along the way. To name a few; Larry Foltz, Fletcher Goodwich and Carolyn Smith will always have a special place in his heart.

Everyone at Custom Mobile Food Equipment would like to commend Dan on his "mission" and would like to thank **Operation Blessing**, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross for all that they do.



www.ob.org
www.salvationarmyusa.org
www.redcross.org
www.disasterreliefvehicles.com

