



SQUARE D

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SQUARE D® CONTRIBUTES TO HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS IN NEW ORLEANS

Donations Distributed Across Three Diverse Projects Help Restore Normalcy to City

PALATINE, III. – July 20, 2006 – Almost a year after Hurricane Katrina dealt its devastating blow to the Gulf Region, Square D – best known in the United States as Schneider Electric’s flagship brand for electrical distribution equipment – announced today its donation of labor, supplies and money to three separate initiatives in the city of New Orleans: the Trinity Christian Community, New Orleans City Park and the Audubon Nature Institute.

The donated funds are part of a larger effort by Square D to rebuild cherished community locations and organizations throughout the Gulf Region and improve the lives of those who live there. Total monetary donations to the collective efforts tallied over \$1 million.

“Giving back to the community has always been a core value of the company, especially in the face of devastating disasters such as Hurricane Katrina,” said Dave Petratis, president and CEO of the Schneider Electric North American Operating Division. “In seeking out independent initiatives, we could ensure our money was aiding a variety of important projects, including three fantastic efforts in New Orleans.”

The three initiatives in New Orleans supported by the donation include:

Trinity Christian Community- New Orleans, La.

The Trinity Christian Community provides inner-city teens with important guidance, including tutoring, life skills and a safe place to congregate. In late August 2005, Hurricane Katrina heavily damaged the organizations’ facility which houses after-school programs and provides lodging for college students and short term mission trips. Square D is donating money, product and labor to guarantee the facilities’ electrical needs are taken care of.

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“Square D sales representative Shawn Fenerty, championed our cause, finding a contractor that could rewire our building adequately, petitioning his company to help with money and supplies and frequently checking with us to see how we were doing,” said Kevin Brown, executive director at Trinity Christian Community. “Square D brought hope to a community desperately in need of it. I cannot express how grateful we are for the time, materials, expertise and money provided to our community center.”

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the organization worked to improve the lives of nearly 150 kids each day through tutoring programs, as well as hosting clubs in the evenings and planning local outings. Since Hurricane Katrina, these efforts have been limited, as the organization has instead been helping to restore the city of New Orleans. However, the youth initiative will be fully operational again when the facility is completed mid-summer.

City Park – New Orleans, La.

New Orleans City Park, one of the largest urban parks in the United States, was completely submerged after Hurricane Katrina hit, leaving all of its unique attractions, except its art museum, destroyed or badly damaged. Over 90 percent of the park was flooded, totaling over \$43 million in damages. The City Park staff was reduced from 260 employees to 25 following Hurricane Katrina. These employees recently surpassed \$4 million in fundraising. This includes the donation from Square D.

“As devastated as the park was after Hurricane Katrina, we welcome and appreciate all donations,” said John Hopper, director of development for City Park. “But it’s even more heartwarming when a national, and in this case, global, company like Schneider Electric, with its Square D brand, steps up to help in the restoration efforts of New Orleans City Park.”

The monetary donation provided by Square D will go toward rebuilding two of the most popular exhibits. The funds will support the cost of a new locomotive and one coach car for the train, which traverses the park on a two-mile track. The donation also will finance a new holiday light exhibit, commemorating French holiday traditions for the annual Celebration in the Oaks – an event that has drawn 500,000 people in past years and accounts for 12 percent of the park’s annual revenue. The projects are scheduled to be completed in late fall.

“Certainly the dollars are significant and appreciated, but the real gift is the tens of thousands of smiles that will grace the faces of the kids this fall,” said Hopper.

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The Audubon Nature Institute Aquarium & Insectarium – New Orleans, La.

The Audubon Nature Institute, which “celebrates the wonders of nature” by exposing guests to the vast diversity of wildlife, has also suffered a massive loss following Hurricane Katrina. The Audubon Aquarium of the Americas housed one of the country’s largest permanent collections of jellyfish, until the display and all its jellyfish were lost in the storm’s aftermath. The money donated by Square D went to completely restore this popular exhibit, funding the acquisition of new jellyfish and the cost to feed and care for them. The official reopening of the aquarium, one of the largest revenue generators for the Audubon Nature Institute, took place May 26th, and the facility is now open six days a week.

Additionally, the Audubon Insectarium, a \$25 million new museum project, was under construction when Hurricane Katrina struck and suffered an additional \$8 million in damages. With the help of Square D, the unique new attraction, including interactive exhibits and a 4D theater, will be completed by June 2007.

“We are proud to support such a wide variety of valuable causes to make certain residents of New Orleans are able to once again enjoy special places in their community,” said Karl Newquist, hurricane recovery project leader for the Schneider Electric North American Operating Division. “More than anything, we wanted our donations to help restore normalcy to some of the many lives and organizations still affected daily by Hurricane Katrina’s devastation, especially initiatives directly related to our youth.”

For additional information regarding Square D’s Hurricane Katrina relief effort, log on to

<http://www.us.schneider-electric.com>.

Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric had sales of \$2.8 billion (U.S.) in 2005. The North American Operating Division is one of four operating divisions of Schneider Electric, headquartered in Paris, France, and markets the Square D, Telemecanique and Merlin Gerin brand products to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, Schneider Electric is best known by its flagship Square D brand, with Telemecanique becoming increasingly known in the industrial control and automation markets and supported by many Square D distributors. For 100 years, Square D has been a market-leading brand of electrical distribution and industrial control products, systems and services. Schneider Electric is a global electrical industry leader with 2005 sales of approximately \$14.5 billion (U.S.). Visit Schneider Electric on the Internet at:

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