

Today was a day of sorting things out. We spent most of the morning going to each of the various project houses and assessing the projects and figuring out what our needs were. As usual the description of the jobs on paper did not match the reality of what we found at the job site. When there are so many hands involved in the reconstruction we find that our team has to sort out the problems that were left behind. There is always much more involved than the volunteer coordinators of Catholic Charities are aware of.



One project that has been completed today was on a house that was left standing, but had shifted enough that the stone work on the exterior was coming apart. Three of the team chipped out mortar and repaired the mortar joints. Unfortunately, however, they uncovered some wood rot that needs to be repaired. Some of the prep work has been started on that and they will be replacing the wood tomorrow.

One of our other projects was to help repair an older house on the edge of town. The family used to live near the hospital, one of the hardest hit areas in Joplin. Their home was completely destroyed. They were uninjured and were able to return to the ruins the next day and rescue their dog and cat, cowering beneath the rubble. The family moved into a house that had been unoccupied and needed work. Our team is working to install a new door, and to patch, sand, and "mud" the ceiling drywall. As an older wooden house, we uncovered some additional structural issues that may slow our work a bit.