



*"With Sho, everything kind of happens," said one participant on the Flight Of Friendship. "It's organized organically."—Lisa Glancy*

## Flight Of Friendship—New Orleans

In April of 2007, more than 100 Portland area residents traveled to New Orleans as part of the Flight Of Friendship project, a "home-grown" support effort organized by **Azumano Travel** and **Mercy Corps**. The trip's goals were to support the local tourism industry, view first-hand the city's hard-hit areas, become better informed about the revitalization process underway and volunteer to do hands-on work with Mercy Corps' hurricane recovery programs. Indeed, participants rolled up their sleeves and pulled nails out of walls, dug up holes to plant trees and rolled rotting utility poles onto the street so the city would actually pick them up on trash pick up day.

This is the beginning of a journey that will really bond our community to their community to help and to learn," says trip organizer Sho Dozono of Azumano Travel. "We cannot forget the city of New Orleans and our friends here."

Said participant Sunshine Dixon: "This trip has made my love for New Orleans rise up like the mighty waters and flood my soul with hope."

Oregon's dignitaries on the trip included Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Portland Mayor Tom Potter and Oregon State Treasurer Randall Edwards. Organizations, public agencies and businesses represented included: Port of Portland, Portland Water Bureau, Urban League of Portland, Intel, Gerding Edlen, Boy Scouts of America, Portland Parks Bureau, Meyer & Wyse, Northwest Strategies, Providence Health Systems and Coast Industries.

