Children, Resilience and Natural Disasters
Visual Markings of Recovery and Hope
On August 29-30, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. Gulf Coast
1,836 people were killed and more than $80 billion in damage resulted.
Homes were destroyed
Playgrounds lay ruined
Katrina is evil, the children thought
How can nature be so cruel, they wondered
But soon they shifted to response-oriented thinking
And a strictly forward focus

Together we rebuild
They refused to feel deflated or victimized
They began specifying, visualizing, collaborating
They gave hope to each other
And others gave them hope
To turn a negative experience into a productive one
This is the story and art of these children of Katrina

Jordan Cole, age 12  
Adam Cooper, age 10  
Rhiannon Davidson, age 10

Michael Dixon, age 10  
Allyson Ledner, age 11  
Rachel Levy, age 10

Cayson Miles, age 10  
Destin Parker, age 11  
Joseph Spires, age 12

Allison Starks, age 10  
Brooke Trichesset, age 12
Based on:
Katrina Healing Arts Program of the International Child Art Foundation &
Joshua D. Margolis and Paul G. Stoltz, “How to Bounce Back from Adversity.”
Harvard Business Review, January-February 2010

The ICAF cultivates children’s imagination and creative critical thinking with the Arts Olympiad; reduces violence in conflict zones and restores children’s trust in humankind with Peace through Art Programs; and remediates suffering following major natural disasters to restores children’s faith in nature with Healing Art Programs.

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