

# Katrina: A boy still remembers his possessions as drowned

From Page 1B

several helping hands — including Joe McGee's.

"Without him, I would have had to leave again but now I am going to stay here and make Fayetteville my home," Johnson said

McGee is the head of the GOTDAD organization that has raised money for families like Johnson's.

He helped organize the gathering Saturday, put together a collage of photos from the hurricane and provided prayer cards and balloons that were released to commemorate the anniversary.

Beth and Ricky Froeba held hands with their two sons while they looked at the pictures of distraught families and flooded parishes.

The boys, ages 7 and 4, held balloons and waited patiently for the food.

Ricky Froeba said the memories of the storm are still fresh in all of their minds. The boys remember the winds and the flooding and the youngest still



Alisa Green, 10, looks at photographs Saturday of the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina during an anniversary gathering at Marketfair Mall.

Staff photo by Andrew Craft

refers to his things being "drowned"

They decided to come Saturday, not to relive the tragedy, but just to enjoy the food and relax in the town they now call home

The McClouds were there for the same reason. The couple is trying to move on from losing everything they had in the storm

They spent three days in their attic or standing watch on the roof of their flooded house waiting to be rescued

They have been back to New Orleans five times since the storm to clean up what remains of their home and bring back the little comforts that made "The Big Easy" so special — hot sauce, pickled meat and red beans

"They don't know how to make gumbo around here," James McCloud said with a chuckle. So he picks up the essentials when he is down there

He is making his new home in Fayetteville a little closer to Louisiana

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From Page 1B

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