

Contents

List of Illustrations	ix
Prologue	xi
Abbreviations	xvii
Introduction	1
1. Emergence: <i>In which it occurs to a New Orleans philanthropist, in the wake of disaster, to form a group</i>	17
2. Bridgework: <i>On the calling upon of old friends and new acquaintances to join together</i>	29
3. Making Plans, Going Public: <i>On the crafting of a mission statement, descriptive of how the group's roster is revealed, and then how the phones begin ringing</i>	40
4. The Flight: <i>Comprising a brief description of a journey to Washington and a few accounts of surviving the storm</i>	51
5. The Press Conference: <i>On political drama, performative utterances, and blue-tarp umbrellas on Capitol Hill</i>	62
6. Hill Visits: <i>Some accounts of invitations delivered to lawmakers; certain interactions prove successful, others misfire</i>	73
7. Noblesse Oblige: <i>On thank-you notes and civic stewardship</i>	83
8. Divergent Paths: <i>In which some women focus on other things</i>	91

9. Invitations Accepted: <i>Relating the decisive first visits to the scenes of destruction</i>	100
10. New Orleans at Six Months: <i>Amid Carnival, a city takes stock of the recovery, some plans unravel, and yet the women persist</i>	107
11. The Breach: <i>Involving a visit by two important persons, a chance encounter, and a revelation</i>	117
12. Going National: <i>In which several women's organizations lend support for the resurrection of New Orleans</i>	124
13. Storm Warnings: <i>Containing a brief account of a media event</i>	128
14. Women of the Storm Return: <i>Involving another trip to Washington and some concrete achievements</i>	134
15. The Presidential Debate: <i>On the crafting of another grand proposal, resulting in a bid, a rejection, and a rejoinder</i>	143
16. The BP Oil Spill and Beyond: <i>How Women of the Storm become Women of the Spill; how a project is almost derailed; and how a third visit to Washington creates new alliances</i>	157
Conclusion: <i>On moral selves and moral communities</i>	168
Acknowledgments	177
Notes on Method	181
Notes	191
Index	233