



Livingston County CARES
Community Report: May 2, 2011



Notes and Reflections from our Volunteers

"The connections and relationships I built with my fellow volunteers, leaders, and community members was the highest priority; above any work aspect of the trip. We were highly productive and hardworking, but creating and helping the victims of Katrina made us really connect to one another. It was so special and a unique event that will truly stay my favorite memory."

-Sarah, Senior

"I was able to realize the full impact that the hurricane had on the area. It was amazing to see the sacrifices people have made and how so many people have dedicated their time for the cause. Actually meeting people who went through it made their sufferings real and made the work worthwhile."

-Emily, Senior

"This trip opened my eyes to many more things than just the true devastation that Katrina caused. I gained a whole new perspective of Mississippi and the people that live here."

-Corinne, Junior

"It is one thing to hear about the hurricane and its effects, but really seeing the damaged it caused, changed how I think of it. It somehow made everything that happened a lot more real."

-Jessica, Sophomore

"Having been on two trips now, I've had two completely different experiences – both were amazing. I can think of no better way to spend a week of my free time!"

-Student, Junior

"I had a wonderful experience on this trip. Overall, it was a highly positive experience. I was touched by the people we met and enjoyed developing close bonds with fellow trip members. One thing that made a big impact on me was volunteering at the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen on the last day. I realized I'd never really considered the extent of the vulnerability of the homeless and the working poor in the face of Hurricane Katrina and how long – lasting the effects can be. It was extremely humbling to be able to serve good to this population and work with the wonderful volunteers there."

-Lizzy, Sophomore

"As with anything, I had prior expectations of what this trip would be like. Again, with anything, reality was nothing like my expectations; it was better! This trip taught me that there is always more work to be done and that the amount of help can always be more."

-Alyssa, Senior

Livingston County CARES, Inc. Community Report

May 2, 2011

Mission

The Mission of Livingston County CARES is to help communities and individuals locally, regionally, statewide, nationwide, and globally in humanitarian projects, including disaster relief and recovery efforts. Livingston County CARES provides a central repository for resources and information for individuals and organizations wishing to contribute to disaster relief efforts.

A Brief History of Livingston CARES

Livingston County CARES, Inc. is a collaborative effort among groups and organizations at SUNY Geneseo and the Geneseo and Livingston County community that started in September 2005 to focus relief and recovery efforts on helping people in Harrison County, Mississippi. The initial group of organizations that endorsed and support Livingston CARES include SUNY Geneseo students, faculty, and staff, the Livingston County Administrator, the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Geneseo, the Village of Geneseo, and the Livingston County Coalition of Churches. Individuals, organizations, schools, local municipalities, and interested citizens are invited to participate in Livingston County CARES projects and programs.

Livingston County CARES, Inc. was incorporated and registered as a New York State non-profit organization in 2006. In March 2007 the IRS granted CARES tax exempt status under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Gifts and donations to CARES are tax deductible. Donations may be given as restricted gifts for specific projects or to the general fund.

Livingston CARES board members are volunteers and there are no employees and very minimal administrative overhead. The headquarters for Livingston CARES is in the Center for Community and the Division of Student & Campus Life at SUNY Geneseo. The Center for Community supports CARES through its commitment to volunteer work, leadership development, civic engagement of students, and outreach to community organizations. Organizations and individuals interested in volunteering or making contributions should contact Tom Matthews at 585-245-5857 or by email at matthews@geneseo.edu or Kay Fly at 585-245-5893 or email fly@geneseo.edu

Volunteer Work Trips to Harrison County, Mississippi

Livingston CARES has concentrated on recruiting volunteers to sign up for trips to Mississippi to work on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Sixty-five months after the hurricane Livingston CARES has sent 591 volunteers on twenty-one work trips to work on houses; a twenty-second trip is scheduled for May 2011. Another round of trips will occur in the winter and spring of 2012.

The total value of the volunteer efforts using the National Corporation for Public Service guidelines of \$20.85 per hour and 50 hours of work by each volunteer on the trips is estimated to be \$603,607.50 of volunteer contributions to our work in Harrison County, Mississippi. In addition to there time, the volunteers have paid their own expenses or obtained donations for the trips at an average cost of \$550.00 per person. The work trip travel and expense for our volunteers currently totals approximately \$325,050.00. Livingston CARES has also

received gifts and donations to assist volunteers with travel expenses and for projects in Harrison County. Since the Hurricane in 2005 Livingston CARES has received \$73,987.09 in gifts and donations from individuals and organizations. In 2006 the Division of Student & Campus Life also contributed \$12,250 to help pay for transportation and to assist students with expenses on the January and March trips. The Center for Community also provides in-kind support and supplies and expenses to assist student volunteer and service activities. CARES funds have been used to assist student volunteers with travel expenses.

Funds have also been donated to support various projects in Harrison County, Mississippi. CARES supported six projects described below.

Livingston County Coalition of Churches Tools for Katrina Project

The Tools for Katrina Project was organized by the Livingston County Coalition of Churches as a Livingston CARES project in the spring of 2006. Tools were collected at local churches and donated by local contractors and delivered to two recovery centers in Biloxi--Hands ON Gulf Coast and Volunteers on Gulf Coast. Church related items were delivered to the Biloxi Methodist Church.

Woolmarket Youth Football League

Harrison County Board of Supervisors President, Connie Rockco, identified the Woolmarket Youth Football League as an organization that needed assistance. CARES donated \$660 to purchase outfits for five students in the program whose equipment had been destroyed by the hurricane.

ARC Connections to the Gulf Coast

Livingston CARES board member Lyle Lehman made connections between the Livingston-Wyoming ARC and the ARC in

Harrison County. Lehman met with board members of The ARC of the Gulf Coast on two trips to Mississippi and was instrumental in securing a \$4,000.00 donation from the local ARC Foundation to Livingston CARES to forward to The ARC of the Gulf Coast to assist the Harrison County ARC programs and projects

Woolmarket Youth Recreation Complex Project

Supervisor Connie Rockco requested our assistance with restoration of the youth recreation complex in her district north of Biloxi. CARES donated \$2,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a flag pole. A plaque on the pole recognizes the gift from the people of Livingston County, New York. A flag raising ceremony held on January 7, 2009 included the presentation of New York State and Livingston County flags to Harrison County. Nick Mazza, Livingston County Administrator and Cynthia Oswald, President of Livingston County Chamber of Commerce participated in the ceremony.

Moore Community House

Prior to Katrina, Moore Community House in East Biloxi was the only center serving low income families with day care and other pre-school programs such as head start. Katrina destroyed all but one of the buildings in the complex. After hearing the history from the director, Carol Burnett, and learning about the critical services provided by Moore Community House, the CARES Board approved the donation of funds contributed by the Geneseo Central Presbyterian Church to CARES. A donation of \$2,000 was made and the funds were used to purchase equipment for the classrooms in the renovated facilities. Several volunteers on the January 2010 work trip toured the two new facilities and were very impressed with the programs and services. The School of Education at SUNY Geneseo is exploring field placement opportunities at Moore Community House for education majors.

Garden Clubs Donations

The Geneseo Garden Club and the Livonia Garden Club contributed funds to help with the recovery efforts. Initially, CARES planned to help restore a county greenhouse but the project never materialized. On the May 2009 trip visit to the Katrina Memorial Park in Biloxi, we noticed a southern live oak had died and inquired about replacing the tree. The city and county officials agreed. In January 2010, we helped plant a new live oak and dedicated a permanent plaque in the park honoring our volunteers and the friendships that have developed between Livingston County and Harrison County over the last six years.

Katrina Story Fades But Recovery Work Continues

Livingston CARES made a commitment to continue working in Harrison County, Mississippi long after the stories faded from the media. Participants in the twenty-two work-trips have seen the devastation of the hurricane and how important volunteer assistance is to those affected by Katrina. We believe it is very important for contributors and volunteers to understand that help is still needed and we intend to continue our work on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi for another few years. Our initial commitment that we made in the fall of 2005 was to continue our work for ten years and we are more than half way through that pledge. We hope our donors will continue to help CARES with the work and the continuing friendships we have established with the homeowners and leaders in Harrison County, Mississippi.

Focus on Projects in Livingston County

In 2009, the Livingston CARES Board agreed to look for ways to focus some of our volunteer efforts on Livingston County. We approved an agreement with Catholic Charities to help with their safe homes projects for seniors and the disabled. Only

one project involving insulating a trailer has been completed under the agreement.

A new volunteer effort was initiated in the spring of 2010 that involved seven groups of SUNY Geneseo students who worked on seven projects in various locations throughout Livingston County as part of the new "Geneseo Goes to Town" volunteer day. This project was developed through the civic engagement initiatives of the GOLD Leadership Program. In 2011, the GOLD Leader Mentors worked with Kay Fly and the Volunteer Center to expand the program and on April 9 seventeen student groups worked on different projects in almost every town in the county. Our goal is to have volunteers work in every town and village in the county assisting in projects and programs unique to each community. Connecting students to people and organizations throughout the county will expand opportunities for volunteer work and service. We will continue our efforts to develop collaborative programs with other local agencies to help people in need within the county.

Haiti Relief and Recovery

In January 2010, the CARES board established a Haiti Relief Fund to assist the people of Haiti recover from the devastation of the earthquake. Numerous college organizations and individuals from the campus and community donated monies to the fund. In November of 2010, the CARES board also approved a special appeal for more contributions to purchase water purification kits to help stop the cholera epidemic. Livingston CARES collected and donated a total of \$8,555.23 to the H.O.P.E Foundation headed by Professor Rose-Marie Chierici to targeted projects in Borgne, Haiti. The projects included resettlement of two families from Port au Prince, the purchase of three teacher boxes for use in rural Haiti, the establishment of a nursery to grow trees for reforestation, and the purchase of over forty water purification kits.

Japan Relief fund

In April the CARES board approved the establishment of a fund to assist in the relief and recovery efforts following the devastation of the tsunami and nuclear power disaster. Emails were sent to all students, faculty and staff at the college to encourage donations to the fund. CARES is working with the Japanese Cultural Club and the 28 students from Japan on the fund raising efforts. The students have identified a specific town in Japan and all funds collected will be sent to the town to help in the rebuilding efforts. It is the town of Minami-Sanriku in the Miyagi Prefecture. The entire town and more than half of its population were swallowed in the tsunami that killed 444 people. Over 632 people are still missing and 7,300 people have been evacuated from the area.

The Town has opened an account for donations and Livingston CARES will forward collected donations to Minami-Sanniku. Our students will report on the relief efforts and we will share the stories with our donors.

Project Holding Accounts

In May 2009, the CARES board approved policies and procedures to permit student civic engagement projects to deposit funds with Livingston CARES. The first major project, the **Ghana Project**, was approved

and funds will eventually go to Koforduia, Ghana to support the New Juaben secondary school. Numerous groups, organizations and departments at SUNY Geneseo are involved in this project.

The second project account was established in May of 2011 to assist with the **El Sauce, Nicaragua** programs that include helping women establish basket making businesses. Student groups raised funds and \$425.18 was donated to that project. We have also received another donation of \$1,000.00 from a parent of one of our students participating in the Humanities Course in El Sauce.

The third project account was established in April of 2010 to provide students in the **HEROS** mentoring program with a depository for fundraising income and expenses associated with the program that has now expanded into three area schools—Keshequa, Dansville and Geneseo. Students have raised \$780.89 and used funds to support social mixers and parties for the mentees and for gas reimbursements to volunteers for the weekly trips to the schools.

Livingston CARES Financial Information on Contributions and Projects

LC Donations Received as of 4-30-11	Cash & checks from individuals and organizations	\$86,959.89
SUNY Geneseo Contributions	Student & Campus Life support for trips	12,206.00
Senator Volker Member Item from State Budget	NYS 07-08 and 08-09 Budget Allocations	20,000.00
Haiti Relief Fund	Donations Received	8,255.30
Japan Relief Fund	Donations Received	100.00
Ghana Project	Donations Received	4,464.22
El Sauce	Donations Received	1425.18
HEROS Project	Donations Received	780.39
LC Projects as of 4-30-11	CARES Donations	
Tools for Katrina	CARES Donations	1,146.59
Woolmarket Youth Football League	CARES donations	660.00
Woolmarket Recreation Complex Flag Pole	CARES Donations	2,000.00
ARC of the Gulf Coast	CARES Donations	4,000.00
Moore Community House	CARES Donations	2,000.00
Live Oak and Plaque	CARES Donations	245.00
El Sauce Project	CARES Donations	425.18
Haiti Relief Fund	CARES Donations	8130.05
Total CARES Donations		<u>\$18,606.82</u>

Volunteer Contributions	Calculation	Amount
Work Trip Volunteers	591 x \$550.00 cost per person	325,050.00
Donated Volunteer Hours	591 x 50 hrs. = 28,950 hrs. x \$20.85 per hr.	603,607.50
Total LC Volunteer Contributions		<u>\$928,657.50</u>

Livingston CARES 2010-2011 Chronology Highlights

April 26, 2010

Livingston CARES Board of Directors held its April meeting at the Interfaith Center prior to the Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner. Students from Womyn's Action Coalition and GSTV requested and the board approved an El Sauce Fund to assist volunteers with projects in Nicaragua. The board also approved \$1575.00 from the Haiti Relief Fund to assist two families to resettle from Port au Prince to Borgne, Haiti. Kevin Feltner was elected to serve as a student on the board of directors. Fly reported that the first Geneseo "Goes to Town" volunteer day involved seven student groups working on projects in seven Livingston County towns.

The Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner included over 75 participants from work trip volunteers, donors, and board members. Representatives from each of the four Mississippi trips and Give Kids the World shared stories about their experiences. Humanitarian Awards were presented to the trip leaders: Marissa Evarts, Dan Young, Dave Parfitt, Dan Hart, Katie Rogers, and Trevor Ramnsey-Macomber. Participants in the dinner contributed \$691.00 to Livingston CARES.

May 16-22, 2010

Twenty-one volunteers participated in the 19th CARES work trip to Mississippi. Ken Kallio served as trip leader and Amanda Leonard was the student coordinator. During the week, volunteers were split into three teams. Team one helped to renovate a stucco-sided home located on Division Street. Team two and three spent the week working on a new build house on Roy Street.

June 23, 2010

The board approved budgets for 2011 Mississippi trips and established per person rates of \$225.00 plus airfare for all participants. All future trips to Mississippi will utilize plane travel and the March trips will no longer use a bus. The board also approved the creation of a HEROS project account to serve as a custodial account for donations and expenses associated with the mentoring program coordinated through the Center for Community. The board approved donations from the Haiti Relief Fund for two projects supported by the H.O.P.E. Foundation and Dr. Rose-Marie Chierici. The funds helped establish a nursery for reforestation and purchased three teacher boxes to assist teachers who move from village to village educating students in the rural Borgne area of Haiti.

September 15, 2010

The board elected Matt Jordan for a one-year term and Philip Natoli and Lisa Burns to three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

October 15, 2010

Livingston CARES sponsored the third Gumbo to Go Dinner at Central Presbyterian Church and sold 201 tickets and raised \$2,100.00. Chef Glenn McClure supervised the volunteer kitchen staff.

November 17, 2010

Andrew Demonsthenous reported on the Nunda trailer insulation project he supervised under our agreement with Catholic Charities. Board members agreed that all future projects must include waivers and supervision from Catholic Charities. The board approved a special appeal for additional funds to combat the cholera epidemic in Haiti and voted to contribute all

remaining funds to purchase water purification kits for the Borgne area of Haiti.

January 9-15, 2011

Twenty-one volunteers participated in the 20th CARES work trip to Mississippi. Tom Matthews served as trip leader. The volunteers were split into four groups. Two groups worked on lead abatement (scrapping and painting in white suits) on one house. One group painted the exterior of a house and another worked on interior demolition of a house and removal of a roof. One group also did outside cleanup and two groups worked for two days at a new house painting the entire interior with two coats of paint and installing flooring in the kitchen and two bathrooms.

January 10, 2011

The *SUNY Geneseo* website featured a news brief by David Irwin entitled "Livingston CARES Group on 20th Trip to Gulf Coast for Hurricane Relief Work."

January 10-16, 2011

Twelve volunteers participated in the Give Kids the World trip in Orlando, Florida. Dave Parfitt served as trip leader. Students worked two shifts a day at the Give Kids the World Village with the guest families. During the day, students served meals to families in the Gingerbread House, made banana splits and milkshakes in the Ice Cream Palace, and delivered continental breakfast, sandwiches for lunch, and pizza dinners on a special cart. In addition to serving food, the students participated in all sorts of entertainment activities in the Village including: providing train rides, taking photos with Disney, Universal, and SeaWorld characters, giving makeovers to children in the spa, and playing with kids and locating stars in the Castle of Miracles.

In the evening, students helped in the Kids' Night Out Program. Wish Families drop

their children off who are then paired with a volunteer for the evening.

January 27, 2011

The *Lamron* published a news brief by Susan Kaczmarczyk titled "Livingston C.A.R.E.S. sends volunteers to Gulf Coast for 20th trip since Katrina."

The *SUNY.EDU* website featured the news brief published on SUNY Geneseo's website on January 10th with the title "SUNY Geneseo Group Continues Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort".

February 1, 2011

The *Encompass* published a news brief entitled "Twenty volunteer trips- and still going". It includes a photo by Kris Dreessen of Samantha Hatz '12 and Bill Gurtowski '12 helping to build and access ramp for a couple in Biloxi, Mississippi.

February 15, 2011

The *Democrat and Chronicle* gave SUNY Geneseo and Livingston CARES a "Thumbs Up" for completing its 20th trip to the Biloxi/Gulfport, Mississippi area to continue Hurricane Katrina relief work.

February 16, 2011

The board approved updated Livingston CARES Governance By-laws and Policy Statements on whistle blowers, conflict of interest, annual audit review, and acknowledgement of contribution.

February 24, 2011

The *Lamron* featured an article on a panel discussion hosted by Geneseo's Ghana Project. The discussion featured faculty fellow for international studies Wes Kennison and education professor Glenn McClure. The discussion examined the political and social realities of modern-day Ghana.

March 13-19, 2011

Twenty-eight Livingston CARES volunteers, including 24 students and four staff members participated in the 21st CARES work trip to Mississippi. Matthew Jordan (staff) and Dan Hart (student) served as trip leaders. Team leaders included Theresa Montenarello, Larry Bellamo, Loryn Royer, and Lizzy Johnson. Two groups worked on lead abatement on a house in Moss Point and two groups constructed a backyard fence at a home in D'Iberville.

March 30, 2011

The board approved tax documents prepared by volunteer Julie Matthews for January-June 2010. This was an interim step in the change to a new July 1-June 30 fiscal year. The board also agreed to establish a Japan Relief Fund pending agreement with students from the Japanese Cultural Club at SUNY Geneseo. The fund was subsequently established and announced to the faculty, staff and students at the College.

March 31, 2011

The *Lamron* featured a news brief on the Third Annual Ghana Gala that was held March 21, 2011. The event included actors and dancers who brought to life the traditions of Ghanaian culture. The Gala raised over \$600 dollars.

April 7, 2011

The *Lamron* featured an article by Rebecca Smarcz titled "Livingston CARES to raise money with Gumbo dinner".

April 10, 2011

The *Livingston County News* and the *Genesee Valley Penny Saver* (Livingston

Edition) featured advertisements related to the Gumbo to Go dinner on April 15, 2011.

April 14, 2011

The *Lamron* printed a news brief about the Gumbo to Go dinner in their "Goings-On" section. It included information on the purpose of the event and where you can purchase tickets and pick-up your meal.

April 15, 2011

CARES sponsored the fourth Gumbo to Go Dinner and a special Acapella Concert featuring the Southside Boys at the Central Presbyterian Church. The Gumbo dinner sold 207 tickets and raised \$2,073 and the concert raised \$106.50. Chef Glenn McClure prepared the meal and supervised the kitchen staff.

April 26-28, 2011

Student volunteers headed by Dan Hart organized the Jailbreak fundraiser at the College to raise money for Livingston CARES.

May 2, 2011

The annual Livingston CARES Volunteer Thank You Dinner is scheduled at the Interfaith Center. The dinner will include stories from each of the last three trips and recognition of volunteers. Gary Towsley and the Geneseo Philanthropic Chefs will prepare the meal.

May 15-21, 2011

Twenty-eight volunteers are registered and set to participate in the 22nd work trip to Biloxi. Ken Kallio will be the trip leader assisted by students Amanda Leonard and Bennett Marano.

Report on Livingston CARES May 2010 Work Trip to Biloxi

Prepared by Ken Kallio, Trip Leader

Twenty one CARES volunteers left for a week of recovery work in Biloxi, Mississippi early Sunday morning. Travelling by air from Buffalo and New York City (LaGuardia,) arriving in New Orleans around 11 AM. Since time permitted, the assembled party travelled in three vans to the French Quarter for an afternoon of tourism.

Most of the volunteers were SUNY Geneseo students. For many, this was their first experience in the south and the French Quarter, in particular. Late in the afternoon, we left the French Quarter and headed for Biloxi and Camp Victor in Ocean Springs.

Our arrival at Camp Victor was different from what other CARES groups may have encountered. There was almost no one present at the camp and most of the Camp Victor's staff was in the central part of the state, helping it to recover from tornadoes that had struck about three weeks earlier. The evening supervisor, Reggie provided us with a brief orientation and helped to get us settled, but for the most part, we were on our own.

On Monday morning, we loaded up the vans for a day of work. We met with Brian Rivers at Hope Community Development Agency to receive our work assignments. One team (one van) was assigned to work on a home in the historic district of East Biloxi. The second and third teams (2 vans) were assigned to work on a new build near one of Biloxi's elementary schools.

Team 1 -- 779 Division Street Renovation Project

The renovation project was a stucco-sided home on Division Street that had been gutted, except for the wood floors and the interior frame walls. We were tasked with prepping the exterior for painting by power washing and priming it. On the interior, the oak floors needed stripping in preparation for staining and finishing. Previously, an attempt had been made to sand the floors, but the multiple layers of old varnish kept gumming up the sander. Hence, we were asked to perform the unenviable task of removing the varnish by hand with chemical strippers. The CARES team took on these tasks with gusto.

By the end of the week, we had completed all of the tasks assigned to us on this project. We spent Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning running a floor sander over the floors that we had stripped of varnish.

On Friday, we were sent to a new build in the Back Bay area of Biloxi that was receiving its final touch up before the owners moved in. Most of what we did was touch up painting.

Teams 2 and 3 -- New Build on Roy Street
Teams 2 and 3 spent the week working on a new build. The house was slated to be completed by June 1. When they arrived at the house, they found the interior needed to have insulation and dry wall installed. This was their primary project for the week. On Monday, some exterior painting was also completed. Insulation was stapled into place. On Tuesday, they began the process of hanging dry wall. Team members learned how to cut dry and fit drywall, while others

specialized in hanging dry wall on the ceilings of rooms.

By the end of the week, the teams had completed insulating the entire house and had contributed significantly to the dry wall installation. Taping and mudding of the installed dry wall in order to prep it for painting was begun by the end of the week.

Other Activities

In the evenings, the volunteers pursued any number of social activities. These included: playing ultimate Frisbee game that was held near Camp Victor, a field trip to the Beau Rivage, visits to the beach, nights out to the gelato stand near the Beau, and enjoying the music of the Lee Brothers, a blues band from Florida. At lunch on Tuesday, Connie Rocko, the chair of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors, visited with us at the Katrina Memorial Park. She spoke candidly to the group about the cultural and political landscape of Mississippi, the impact of

Katrina, and her own personal story. The group also enjoyed a lunch together at the park on Friday.

Our relatively late afternoon departure on Saturday allowed for a second visit to the French Quarter. We left Camp Victor about 9 AM. Thanks to the initiative of Tara McCarron, who arranged for us to receive a volunteer group discount to the aquarium, everyone spent a couple of hours there.

The return to the airport and the return flights were uneventful, except for one very short layover in Atlanta. The Buffalo bound group's flight arrived in Atlanta a couple minutes behind schedule, which turned a very quick layover nearly into a disaster, as we had to move from one terminal to another. Fortunately, several assertive members of our party who arrived first at the departure gate insisted that they keep it open for the remainder of our party. We were the last ones on board.

Livingston CARES May 2010 Trip Volunteers

Daniel Bailey, SUNY Geneseo Student
Kelly Battaglia, SUNY Geneseo Student
Debra Buchanan, Campus Auxiliary Service Staff
Lydia Cappadonia, SUNY Geneseo Student
Caroline Correa, SUNY Geneseo Student
Alexandra Dietz, SUNY Geneseo Student
Krista Frieling, SUNY Geneseo Student
Ken Kallio, SUNY Geneseo Faculty
Brittni Kwiecien, SUNY Geneseo Student
Amanda Leonard, SUNY Geneseo Student
Kasey McCarron, SUNY Geneseo Student
Kasey McHale, SUNY Geneseo Student

Andrew Ng, SUNY Geneseo Student
Morgan Rinck, SUNY Geneseo Student
Megan Ross, SUNY Geneseo Student
Nina Schmidbauer, SUNY Geneseo Student
Michael Schwartz, SUNY Geneseo Student
Lauren Smith, SUNY Geneseo Student
Mark Stein, Community Volunteer
Zoe VanOrden, SUNY Geneseo Student

Trip Report Give Kids the World Alternative Break January 2011

Prepared by: Dave Parfitt, Trip Leader, SUNY Geneseo Administrator

Students arrived in Florida on Monday, January 10th. They flew in to Orlando International Airport from their homes in New York, and arrived throughout the day. I met everyone at the airport, and transported them down to our two Villas where they unpacked. Around 5:00pm. We then went over to Give Kids The World Village (hereafter referred to as "the Village") where we met the head of volunteer services, Beth Whitmire. Beth gave us a tour of the Village complete with the history and mission, and we then had dinner in the Village.

This year's alternative break was a little different from the 2010 trip. Four students from the 2010 trip returned for a second year, and Todd Carrier returned to serve as the trip co-leader. Give Kids The World goes through seasonal cycles like the rest of the tourist areas in Central Florida, and we arrived at the Village at a low time of the season. It was January, kids had returned to school, and not as many families were staying at GKTW. Therefore, we engaged in more work projects around the Village than we had in 2010. Projects included scrubbing and polishing The "Enchanted Carousel", Removing and storing final holiday decorations and washing and drying the motorboat pool.

Students pitched in wherever needed, and realized their efforts performed a valuable

service to the Village. However, where the students truly excelled was when it was their time to interact with the families as well as the other volunteers. Be it assisting with horse riding in Keaton's Korral or coloring in the Castle of Miracles – making new friends while scooping ice cream in the Ice Cream Palace, or serving dinner and drinks at the Gingerbread House – everyone worked hard with a smile and did whatever was asked.

One of the highlights of the week was participating in the Thursday evening entertainment. Every Thursday, the Village turns into a Winter Wonderland complete with Santa and Mrs. Claus passing out gifts to every child. Many of the students and myself took part in the Winter Wonderland festivities. Even I was asked to march and dress in costume as "the Grinch." [No, I did not carve the roast beast.] The parade ended with a dance party in the main outdoor plaza inside the Village. Many of the children were scared of the Grinch (go figure), except for one little boy. That boy took my hands, and begged me to dance. He looked in my eyes (through the mask), and mouthed the words "I love you, Grinch." That was when I knew the trip was worthwhile, not just for my students but everyone at the Village including the staff, volunteers, students, and families.

Livingston CARES January 2011 Give Kids the World Participants

Chelsea Ashlaw, SUNY Geneseo Student (2nd time on trip)
Mindy Benamati, SUNY Geneseo Student (2nd time on trip)
Todd Carrier, Trip co-Leader, Community Member
Jo Champlin, SUNY Geneseo Student
Kerry Haugh, SUNY Geneseo Student
Lizzy Johnson, SUNY Geneseo Student
Lauren Kmetz, SUNY Geneseo Student

Jenna Marcellus, SUNY Geneseo Student (2nd time on trip)
Tara McCarron, SUNY Geneseo Student
Theresa Montenarello, SUNY Geneseo Student
David Parfitt, Trip Leader, SUNY Geneseo Administrator
Alison Payne, SUNY Geneseo Student
Brittany Phillips, SUNY Geneseo Student (2nd time on trip)
Lauren Smith, SUNY Geneseo Student

Report on Livingston CARES January 2011 Work Trip to Biloxi

Prepared by: Tom Matthews, Trip Leader

Twenty-one Livingston CARES volunteers left for Mississippi very early on Sunday, January 9 and traveled on Air Tran from Rochester through Atlanta to New Orleans. We were fortunate enough to leave our Atlanta connection an hour before they shut down the airport due to extreme weather throughout the region. Six students from downstate flew separately from LaGuardia to join us in New Orleans.

We left the Louis Armstrong airport in New Orleans in four vans and drove in a downpour directly to our new housing site at the Seashore United Methodist Assembly (Camp SUMA) on the Biloxi Beach one mile west of the Biloxi Lighthouse. After unpacking and settling into our bunkhouse accommodations, we drove to familiar territory in Ocean Springs for dinner. The restaurant was one block from Camp Victor that housed our volunteers for the previous two years.

On Monday morning a cold front moved in and we awoke to temperatures in the upper teens and low twenties that lasted for almost half the week. We met the kitchen staff and had breakfast in the dining room at 7 am. The staff prepared our lunches and issued picnic coolers for each of the four vans. We left Camp SUMA at 7:45 am and arrived at 8:00 am for orientation at HOPE Community Development Agency on Division Street in East Biloxi. We signed in and were briefed by the HOPE volunteer coordinator, Brian Rivers, on our assignments for the week. We then followed the HOPE supervisors to the warehouse to pick up tools and supplies for the different work sites. Two groups worked on lead abatement (scrapping and painting in white

suits) on one house and the two other groups painted the exterior of a house and another worked on interior demolition of a house and removal of roofing. One group also did outside cleanup and two groups worked for two days at a new house painting the entire interior with two coats of paint and installing flooring in the kitchen and two bathrooms.

Late one afternoon two vans of volunteers visited the Moore Community House to meet the director, Carol Burnett. Burnett took us on a tour of two facilities that house programs for child care and early childhood education to low income families in East Biloxi. Volunteers from Livingston CARES have taken an interest in Moore Community House from the first trip in 2006 when we watched the bulldozing of the buildings. CARES has donated funds to help in the restoration of the facilities.

The entire group met one morning before work at the Katrina Memorial Park in Biloxi to see the memorial and the Livingston CARES tree that was planted in January of 2010 to commemorate the five years of volunteer work and friendships between Livingston County, New York and Harrison County, Mississippi. We also posed for the traditional photo under the Biloxi arch. Other highlights of the week included tours of local historical sites, stops at the Beau Ravage and Hard Rock Café casinos, a bowling night in Ocean Springs, lunch at HOPE with an opportunity to hear Bill Stallworth, CEO of HOPE, share very emotional stories about the volunteer work in Biloxi.

On Friday, we wrapped up our projects, enjoyed many emotional moments hearing the stories and the expressions of thanks from homeowners, and saying goodbye to the work crews and supervisors. We also had an opportunity to visit with Connie Rockco, one of the five supervisors of Harrison County, who shared her perspectives on Katrina and the rebuilding efforts on the Gulf Coast as well as the effects of the BP oil spill.

Friday night we enjoyed the traditional trip to The Shed for dinner and a special bonfire provided by HOPE on the Biloxi Beach.

On Saturday we departed at 7:00 am with a stop for breakfast at the Waffle House diners on the Gulfport Beach. We then drove through the Ninth Ward to catch some glimpses of the area flooded during the hurricane on our way to the French Quarter of New Orleans. We parked near Jackson Square and several of us headed to Café DuMonde for beignets and coffee. The weather was much warmer and everyone had an opportunity to enjoy the street performers and get a taste of the wide variety of cuisine available in numerous restaurants. Our flights departed on time for Rochester and New York City.

January 2010 Livingston CARES Work Trip Participants

Christine Bae, SUNY Geneseo Student
Emily Brown, SUNY Geneseo Student
Chelesa Commisso, SUNY Geneseo Student
Lindsay Degan, SUNY Geneseo Student
Angelica Fabozzi, SUNY Geneseo Student
Kevin Felter, SUNY Geneseo Student
Suzanne Fialho, SUNY Geneseo Student
Sarah Kaszubski, SUNY Geneseo Student
Andrew Kopp, SUNY Geneseo Student
Claren Kruppner, Community Volunteer
Tony Macula, SUNY Geneseo Faculty
Tom Macula, SUNY Potsdam Student
Logan Mahlum, SUNY Geneseo Student
Tom Matthews, SUNY Geneseo Administrator

Phil Natoli, SUNY Geneseo Faculty
Erin Pipe, SUNY Geneseo Student
Megan Reynolds, SUNY Geneseo Student
Richard Reynolds, Community Volunteer
Ken Richardson, Community Volunteer
Corine Santariello, SUNY Geneseo Student
Jessica Tornatore, SUNY Geneseo Student
Jessica Vay, SUNY Geneseo Student
Derek Weng, SUNY Geneseo Student
Carolyn Wolfram, SUNY Geneseo Student
Claire Wright, SUNY Geneseo Administrator
Kara Zimmerman, SUNY Geneseo Student
Nicole Zupo, SUNY Geneseo Student

Report on Livingston CARES March 2011 Work Trip to Biloxi

Prepared by: Matt Jordan, Trip Leader

Twenty-eight Livingston CARES volunteers, twenty-four students and four staff members, left for the Buffalo airport early on Sunday, March 13 to embark on our trip for a week of work in Biloxi. We traveled from Buffalo through Atlanta to New Orleans and when we arrived in New Orleans, we quickly got our vans and promptly left for Biloxi. Each van had seven people driven by a staff member, and lead by a student leader; Theresa Montenarello, Larry Bellamo, Loryn Royer, and Lizzy Johnson.

The drive to Biloxi was very scenic and the students took the opportunity to ask one another questions and get a better feel for who they would be working with for the whole week. We arrived at Camp SUMA and put our things into the dorms we would be staying in and decided to grab a light dinner at a Mississippi favorite, Waffle House (not by coincidence, this is also one of the only places actually open late on a Sunday evening in the South). We got back to Camp SUMA around 10pm and Dan Hart, our student coordinator, led the group over to the beach to do some ice breakers. After learning everyone's names and playing many rounds of "switch-if", the students and staff gradually starting heading back towards the dorms to get some rest for the long week of work that was awaiting us.

On Monday morning, the lights went on at 5:30am so that we could be ready for 6:00am orientation in the dining hall. Although the students were tired, they were all excited to meet some of the SUMA staff and get a specially prepared southern breakfast. After breakfast, we all grabbed our coolers and lunches, packed them in the vans, and drove to the HOPE Community

Development Agency. The group received a quick orientation about HOPE and what projects were available for the week. Brian split us in half, with two groups, Theresa's and Lizzy's, to a house in Moss Point for lead abatement, and the other two groups, Larry's and Loryn's, started constructing a fence in the backyard of a home in D'Iberville. We worked on our various projects for the rest of the day and then all returned to Camp SUMA around 4:00pm.

Our first dinner at Camp SUMA was eventful as the groups discussed their projects with one another and what had been accomplished that day. The Moss Point group had made great progress scraping off lead paint, repainting, and cleaning up the mess. Unfortunately, a water pipe had accidentally gotten stepped on and partially flooded the underneath of the home of "Miss Sara", the homeowner. The water was stopped, but it effectively stunted the progress the group made and meant they would have to return on Tuesday to finish. The D'Iberville group had not received many materials, tools, or instruction in the morning, but started to make great progress in the afternoon. The fence they were putting up was meant to protect the family's four year old son and two dogs from the hill and creek in the backyard.

Overall, spirits were high and when we finished dinner, the group headed to Biloxi to see the Katrina Memorial, take pictures, and speak about the impact of the storm. We walked around Biloxi looking at some of the damaged, boarded-up homes, and stopped at a home to speak with some Mississippians about their experience with the storm. The group left with good stories and mardi gras beads, and we headed back

to Camp SUMA for the evening. Volunteers spent the evening catching up on emails, going to the beach, playing cards and socializing.

On Tuesday, after breakfast, we returned to HOPE to see where they would send us. The Moss Point group all returned to Moss Point to finish "Miss Sara's" home and the D'Iberville group returned to work on the fence. During lunch, the groups congregated back at HOPE to listen to Director Bill Stallworth tell his Katrina story. After an hour of listening to his impassioned speech about the tragedy in Biloxi and the birth of HOPE, the groups got back to work at their sites. The Moss Point group could not finish due to all the water from the accident of the previous day, and left to take on other projects. Lizzy's group started digging holes for a pavilion in a park in Biloxi, while Theresa's group cleaned the inside of a recently constructed home in Biloxi.

After dinner, the volunteers went to a bowling alley in Ocean Springs and enjoyed a game of bowling, laughs, and some quality bonding time. Volunteers seemed to have a lot of fun and afterwards, they spent time hanging out with new friends around Camp SUMA.

On Wednesday, the D'Iberville group returned to work on the fence while Theresa's group returned to Moss Point to finish "Miss Sara's" home. After finishing the home, they went to a home in Ocean Springs that needed some touch-up paint on the stairs and at the base of the roof. After completing this job, they continued to work on the pavilion that Lizzy's group started the day before. Because HOPE had no work for Lizzy's group, they joined a group of volunteers from Tennessee working for Habitat for Humanity and cleared brush just off one of Biloxi's main roads.

After dinner on Wednesday, the whole group had time for reflection led by the team leaders. Volunteers were able to each discuss what they were taking from the experience. Afterwards, we went to the Hard Rock Café and some of the casinos and arcades in Biloxi. The volunteers enjoyed some great ice cream, slots (for the willing 21+ year olds), DDR, and a lot of fun.

On Thursday, the D'Iberville group returned to continue working on the fence and both Theresa and Lizzy's groups showed up to the park in Biloxi to work on a variety of projects. Some of the volunteers continued work on the pavilion, others did demolition of the ceiling of a shed and replaced it with new mat board, and others took scraps to the dump and helped tear out an old fence that was being moved.

Thursday night, volunteers went to The Shed and enjoyed some fantastic food and great photo opportunities. First time participants on the trip got a chance to soak in the fun atmosphere of The Shed and experience southern barbeque at the same time.

On Friday, due to lack of work for HOPE, the volunteers actively found their own service projects in the community, with some volunteers going to Ocean Springs YMCAs and the Fishes & Loaves soup kitchen. HOPE did send one group to D'Iberville to complete the fence. After dinner that evening the volunteers held a bonfire on the beach to celebrate the week.

We packed our things early on Saturday and grabbed breakfast before heading to New Orleans. Everyone spent time bonding, resting, and reflecting in the airports before we departed for good in Buffalo. I could not have asked for a better group of volunteers. They made the experience amazing.

Livingston CARES March 2011 Work Trip Participants

Matthew Andrews, SUNY Geneseo Student
Lawrence Bellomo, SUNY Geneseo Student
Kathryn Boland, SUNY Geneseo Student
Matthew Bower, SUNY Geneseo Student
Catherine Brown, SUNY Geneseo Student
Tom Buneo, SUNY Geneseo Student
Erica Cohen, SUNY Geneseo Student
Sean Conner, SUNY Geneseo Student
Sonia Dubovici, SUNY Geneseo Student
Melissa Graham, SUNY Geneseo Student
Daniel Hart, SUNY Geneseo Student
Lindsey Hebell, SUNY Geneseo Student
Sarah Hirsch, SUNY Geneseo Student
Kara Johnson, SUNY Geneseo Student
Elizabeth Johnson, SUNY Geneseo Student

Matthew Jordan, SUNY Geneseo Administrator
William Labate, SUNY Geneseo Student
Vanessa Lobo, SUNY Geneseo Student
Ian MacPherson, SUNY Geneseo Student
Sarah Mader, SUNY Geneseo Student
Theresa Montenarello, SUNY Geneseo Student
Garry Morgan, SUNY Geneseo Administrator
Alyssa Polosky, SUNY Geneseo Student
Loryn Royer, SUNY Geneseo Student
Kelly Scolaro, SUNY Geneseo Student
Paul Simmons, SUNY Geneseo Administrator
Isaiah Tolbert, SUNY Geneseo Administrator
Kristen Ververs, SUNY Geneseo Student
Laura Vitto, SUNY Geneseo Student
Jason Wang, SUNY Geneseo Student

Notes and Reflections from our Volunteers

"The overall camaraderie that I established with my work group was excellent. I felt like these 6 other members were my friends for many years, despite not knowing any of them before the trip. Nothing bonds a group together like manual labor!"

-Matthew, Sophomore

"I think my most special memory from their trip would be how close our team became. You would think (actually, I thought) that because our team spent all our time together, that we would naturally get sick of each other. That was not the case at all. Actually, our bonds and amount of laughter grew stronger each day."

-Alyssa, Senior

"Seeing the family so excited about their new home made me feel like I had accomplished something. Not all the work was "fun" but the people I was with seriously changed my life."

-Melissa, Sophomore

"My group was outstanding and I have never laughed so much and so hard! Being a part at trips like these always brings me back to reality. These trips help me organize my priorities and know what really is important. They are life changing and allow college students to be a part of something great."

-Theresa, Senior

Contributors to Livingston CARES – Individuals

Kate & Jerry Alonzo
Doug Baldwin
Susan Barthlomeo
Norm Bauer
Irene Belyakov
Patrick Bly
Catherine & Bob Bonfiglio
Anita Bowersox
Barbara Boyce
Lisa Burns
James Carlisle
Niels & Barbara Christiansen
Elaine Cleeton
Gary & Shirley Cox
Stephanie Crissman
Christopher Dahl
Linda Deats
Ben DeGeorge
Andrea DiGiorgio
Ganie DeHart
Celia Easton
Rita & Peter Elliott
Mark Gillespie
Sandra Glantz
Ruth Gibson
Beth Godfrey
Margaret Goodridge
Tom Greenfield
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Marlene Hamilton
Timothy & Pam Hammond
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Linda House
Eric Huppert
Tamara Hurlburt
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Carol Jackman
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Jennifer Katz
Tamara Kenney
Wes Kennison
Kimberly Kipfer
Marilyn Klotz
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Lyle Lehman
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George & Beth Traver
Kathleen Trainor
Edward Wallace
Linda Weaver
Joyce Wechsler
Margery Wilkie
Tom Wilson
Wilbur Wright

Contributors – Business, Community & Student Organizations

Alpha Kappa Phi Sorority
 Another Time Antiques – Barbara Boyce
 Center for Community – SUNY Geneseo
 CSEA – Geneseo Chapter
 Class of 2002 – SUNY Geneseo
 Class of 2004– SUNY Geneseo
 College Democrats – SUNY Geneseo
 College Senate – SUNY Geneseo
 Sociology Club—SUNY Geneseo
 Student & Campus Life – SUNY Geneseo
 Geneseo Central Presbyterian Church
 Geneseo Chapter – UUP
 Geneseo Garden Club
 Geneseo Kiwanis Club
 Geneseo Rotary
 Geneseo St. Michael's Church
 Geneseo Student Association
 Geneseo United Methodist Church
 Golden Key International Honour Society

Habitat for Humanity – SUNY Geneseo
 Livingston County Chamber of Commerce
 Livingston County News
 Livonia Garden Club
 Nassau Residence Hall – SUNY Geneseo
 Pavilion Central School Ski Club
 Royal Lady Knights
 St. Michael's Church
 Senator Volker Campaign Committee
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 Inter-Residence Council – SUNY Geneseo
 Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
 Japanese Culture Club – SUNY Geneseo
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Contributors to Haiti Relief Fund—Individuals and Organizations

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William Stein
Suffolk Hall
Michael Teres
David & Francisca-Vincente
Tamarin

Gary Towsley &
Olympia Nicodemi
Kathy Trainor
UUP-Geneseo Chapter
Elsje Van Munster
Julia Walker
James & Barbara Walker
Richard & Elizabeth Wood
Wyoming Hall

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Dan Hart
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Matthew Jordan
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Lori McEvoy
Phil Natoli
David Parfitt

Kudos and Thanks

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- Ken Kallio for leading the May 2010 and the May 2011 trips and Amanda Leonard for helping with the May 2010 and 2011 trips. Thanks to Bennett Marano for also assisting with the May 2011 trip.
- Tom Matthews for leading the January 2011 trip and providing Livingston CARES with vision and direction
- Matt Jordan for recruiting student volunteers, registering volunteer participants for the three 2011 trips and leading the March 2011 trip
- Dan Hart for serving as the student leader for the March 2011 trip and for his extraordinary efforts with fundraising (Southside Boys Concert, Jail Break and Improv Comedy Night)
- Sharyon Deupengiesser for travel arrangements
- Barbara Battaglia for clerical and administrative support
- Lyle Lehman for his continuing support and service as Livingston CARES Treasurer
- Geneseo Philanthropic Chefs (Gary Towsley, Lynn Kennison, Glenn McClure, and Paula McClure) and numerous other volunteers for catering the Gumbo-to-Go Dinner and the Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner and to Wegman's for gift cards for the Gumbo to Go Dinner
- Kevin Cole for his internship work on our accounting system and to Diana Castro for her work this semester as our financial assistant for Livingston CARES
- Lori McEvoy for representing Livingston County Coalition of Churches
- Interfaith Center for their use of the facility
- MAC (Men of Action and Change) for helping with the dinner
- President Christopher Dahl, SUNY Geneseo, for his continued support of CARES.
- Robert Bonfiglio, Vice President, Student & Campus Life for enabling CARES to do its work and for the financial contributions from the Division of Student & Campus Life
- Leonard Sancilio and the Center for Community staff members for support and financial resources to help create and sustain CARES projects and programs
- Julie Matthews for her advice and preparation of our tax documents
- Central Presbyterian Church of Geneseo for financial contributions and work-trip volunteers and for the use of the kitchen for two Gumbo to Go Dinners and the sanctuary for the Southside Boys Concert
- Kay Fly for serving as CARES secretary and assisting with the planning of the CARES dinner
- Kristen Fuest for her outstanding design work on our publications and the CARES website
- Connie Rockco, Harrison County Supervisor, for her continued support of CARES and for always making us feel welcome in Mississippi
- Cynthia Oswald and the Chamber of Commerce for continuing support of Livingston CARES trip
- Camp SUMA for housing and feeding CARES volunteers
- Hope Community Development Agency for hosting our work projects and to Bill Stallworth for his unwavering commitment to rebuilding East Biloxi and to Brian Rivers for working with our New York volunteers
- SUNY Geneseo and the surrounding community for supporting our mission
- Individuals and community organizations donating funds to CARES programs
- Rose-Marie Chierici for her advice and assistance with the Haiti Relief Fund

Livingston CARES Report to Haiti Relief Fund Donors

Reforestation Program



Your gift helped us to support a tree nursery program in Haiti. Reforestation is crucial to the future of the nation. Lands stripped for firewood by impoverished people have left many rural landscapes vulnerable to flooding and destructive erosion. Haiti's ability to survive extreme tropical weather and grow enough food to support its population depends upon stabilizing the soil against such events. At the same time, the newly planted trees provide cash crops in fruit, coffee, cocoa and other products that give work to entrepreneurs. The gift

provided capital to start an additional tree nursery.

Mobile Teacher Program



Many rural families send their children to school on foot and some kids walk up to two hours to reach a school, often on an empty stomach. In some of the most remote regions of our area of intervention, there are no schools within a reasonable distance and walking to school is not a practical option. Since education is not free

and 80% of the population has no steady source of income, sending a child to school is beyond what parents can afford. In response to these constraints, H.O.P.E. has established a Mobile School Program (MTP) to bring education to kids who cannot reach a school or whose parents can't send them. Each MTP teacher is responsible for a circuit of four villages and meets kids in each site for a week each month. At every site, the teachers will have all the materials they need stored in a box which also converts into a blackboard. Each box contains books, notebooks, educational toys, musical instruments, eating utensils and plates, backpacks and a t-shirt with the school's logo. 300 children aged 4-7 are enrolled in the program this year and they will receive a meal a day. This is a huge investment in the future of these children and the future of the region. Your gift paid for three boxes!

Resettlement of Refugees following the Earthquake

The earthquake of 2010 had a profound effect on the entire nation. Areas not directly damaged were drained of their resources and flooded with refugees. Your gift assisted in the resettlement on two families dislodged and injured by the quake. In Borgne, families were housed temporarily in tents pitched under a metal roof until housing could be secured. You furnished their homes with basic necessities and helped them to return more quickly to a normal domestic routine.





Mission

The Mission of Livingston County CARES is to help communities and individuals locally, regionally, statewide, nationwide, and globally in humanitarian projects, including disaster relief and recovery efforts.

Livingston County CARES provides a central repository for resources and information for individuals and organizations wishing to contribute to disaster relief efforts.