Students Aid Hurricane Victims

Tragedy, such as Hurricane Katrina, brings out the best in human nature.

And juniors Lindsay Gottschalk (Minster, Ohio) and Jen Stacy (Fairfield, Ohio) are no exception.

After Katrina, the two early childhood education majors began talking about how they could help the children affected. They turned their words into action by organizing a book drive for the Biloxi public schools in Gulfport, Miss.

Gottschalk and Stacy wanted to get school supplies into the hands of students displaced from their homes and schools, so they set up boxes around campus to collect books and school supplies for all ages. Gottschalk said, “It was amazing to see how many of our classmates, families and everyone on campus wanted to help.”

They gathered 94 boxes of books and school supplies including clothes and shoes. The donations came from hundreds of students, faculty and friends. Dr. Sharon Subrendith (assistant professor; School of Teaching and Learning) donated many books in conjunction with a previous book-collection effort. BGSU’s Child Development Center, Curriculum Resource Center and Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center as well as the Wood County District Public Library and businesses and schools in the students’ hometowns were also generous in donating resources.

After a 14-hour drive during fall break, Gottschalk and Stacy visited Beauvoir Elementary School where they distributed the supplies and books they had collected.

“The teachers flocked to us because they didn’t have books. It never occurred to us the teachers didn’t have books,” said Stacy.

“They were crying and hugging us. I loved seeing the reaction of all the teachers,” Gottschalk recalled.

The EDHD students were overwhelmed with the results of their hurricane book drive. Stacy said, “Just being able to say ‘I know the difference one person can make’ is the motivation for a lot of the things we want to do in the future. I would encourage everyone to make their visions a reality and do something to make a difference.”

By: Erdoor Ngur (Senior, Interpersonal Communications)
Focus on an Advocate
Sherrie Jones Leads by Example

Dr. Sherrie Jones ’72, ’76 continually looks for ways to make the world a little better. Although she calls Cross Pointe Farms, Mich., her home, she spends most of her time on the road, traveling overseas for business or making frequent trips to BGSU to volunteer. No matter where she finds herself, she always finds time to focus on how she can make a difference and be a positive role model.

She began her career in education, serving as a teacher, principal, administrator and director of curriculum and technology before moving on to the world of business. Because of her entrepreneurial spirit, she started her own business and now owns several successful national and international companies.

An avid supporter of both the College of EDHD and the University for many years, she is a member and current chair of the College of EDHD’s Advocates Board, holds membership in the Presidents Club, serves on the Foundation Board of Directors, is chair of the board’s major gifts and planned giving committee and is heavily involved in the Music Plus program. She is also actively involved in community programs such as Rotary Club.

Jones is especially supportive when it comes to helping students. She created a scholarship years ago that now annually supports four to six students in the college. She enjoys meeting “her students” and sharing her expertise with them whenever possible.

Jones agreed to serve on the Advocates Board because, “the country needs quality education, and the best way to obtain that is to turn out quality teachers and administrators. BGSU’s College of Education and Human Development is one of the best at doing just that.”

Because she feels the leadership of the college is in very capable hands, Jones wanted to support the administration’s efforts. “Dean Cruz has a strong vision for the college, is an excellent advocate for the students and possesses the leadership skills necessary to continue moving the college in the right direction,” she said. “I wanted to be a part of supporting all that.”

Recent Graduates: Double Your Money!

If you graduated between 2000-2005, your donation to the college can go twice as far this year thanks to the generosity of education graduate Wiley Blevins ’87.

An EDHD Advocates Board member, Blevins will match any contribution you make in an effort to endow a book scholarship for first-generation students.

EDHD graduate and vice president, editorial director at MacMillan/McGraw-Hill Wiley Blevins, known for his spirit as a University cheerleader, shows his continuous support by extending a telefund challenge to recent graduates.

Scholarship Makes an Impact

Nanci Ickes, a student in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, came to BGSU from North Olmsted, Ohio, to make a difference in the lives of others. She reached her goal, to impact her peers through health, in part because of a scholarship she received.

The scholarship allowed her to work on completing her senior honors project instead of working those hours at a job. The result was a compelling display on campus educating students about responsible decision-making regarding alcohol.

“The scholarship has helped me pursue my goals and aspirations of being a health promotion specialist,” Ickes said. “My scholarship contributors have aided in the well being of my peers by financially supporting me through this scholarship and continuing to improve our wonderful BGSU.”

Focus on Faculty
Congratulations to Dr. John Fischer

Dr. John Fischer (assistant professor, School of Teaching and Learning) received the 2005 Outstanding Young Scholar Award at BGSU. The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research presents the University-wide award annually to a young faculty member who has demonstrated scholarly ability and potential significance of scholarly accomplishments and efforts in security external funding. Previous winners from EDHD include Dr. Daniel Brahtier and Dr. Jodi Haney.

Did You Know?
The College of Education and Human Development is:

• first in number of initial teacher preparation (bachelor) degrees granted in Ohio
• first in the number of total education degrees (includes advanced degrees and specialist) granted in Ohio
• 17th in the number of initial teacher preparation degrees granted in the United States
• 14th in the number of total education degrees granted in the United States

Source: American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education’s (AECT) 2004 Professional Education Data System Report