

# LIVINGSTON CARES ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT



2019

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Dear Livingston CARES Members, Volunteers and Donors:

Thank you for your support and involvement in Livingston CARES programs and service trips. Each year, in April, we prepare the Livingston CARES Annual Community Report to share the highlights of our events and programs. Please take the time to read the reports prepared by each of our service week trip leaders and you will quickly discover that our volunteers do amazing work helping others and making a difference in the communities that need assistance recovering from natural disasters. Our volunteers frequently report that their participation in a service week was a life-changing experience.

This report also provides highlights of activities, events, programs, and finances of Livingston CARES. Livingston CARES has no employees and very little overhead costs so all the funds and contributions to the organization are used for service trips and targeted projects that directly help support humanitarian efforts such as rebuilding homes, building new schools, establishing tree nurseries, and purchasing much-needed equipment for partner hosts in Puerto Rico, Florida, and Texas.

After reviewing our 2018 service trips to Brooklyn, Biloxi, Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, the board decided to continue offering trips to the same locations again in the winter and spring of 2019. During the fall, Hurricane Michael devastated parts of the Florida Panhandle and we decided to offer a second Florida spring break service trip to help with the recovery in that area of the Gulf Coast.

On January 12, 2019, 13 volunteers traveled to Houston, 14 to the Florida Keys, and 14 to Puerto Rico and successfully completed multiple house projects in all three locations. Unfortunately, a major storm on the return date of January 19 caused major travel delays with overnight stays and additional expenses to get all the volunteers safely back to Geneseo. During spring break on March 16-23, 13 volunteers traveled to the Florida Keys, 7 to the Florida Panhandle, 14 to Puerto Rico, 5 to Brooklyn and 5 to Biloxi to continue helping with the recovery efforts from five past hurricanes. On May 18, 2019, 13 volunteers traveled to Puerto Rico and 5 volunteers went to the Florida Keys to continue our service work. Please join Livingston CARES in thanking our 103 volunteers, including 13 faculty/staff/alumni, 10 community residents, and 80 students for participating in our record number of 10 service trips in 2019. This Livingston CARES Annual Community Report includes stories and highlights from our May 2018 and January and March 2019 service trips.

We also want to thank our partner organizations including the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, SBP in Brooklyn, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in Florida and Texas and Puerto Rico (Iglesia Metodista De Puerto Rico) for providing accommodations, meals, and for arranging and supervising the service projects.

Thank you to our past and current Livingston CARES donors. Thank you to the volunteers who helped with our two fundraising Gumbo to Go dinners. Thank you to the Student Association (SA) for their generous grant of \$5,000.00 to support student travel expenses, and thank you to the State University of New York for helping with travel expenses for the three Puerto Rico service trips.

Other highlights of the current year activities include our continuing sponsorship of the Geneseo/Groveland Food Pantry and the Home Away From Home Respite Program at the Geneseo Interfaith Center. Reports on both of these agreements are included in this annual report.

Again, thank you to our members, volunteers and donors for your support and engagement in Livingston CARES programs and service trips.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Matthews".

Tom Matthews  
President, Livingston County CARES

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.

# Mission and History of Livingston CARES

## *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 in the Geneseo and Livingston County community that started in September 2005 to focus on relief and recovery efforts by helping people in Harrison County, Mississippi. The initial groups were members of 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 were 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 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](mailto:matthews@geneseo.edu) or Garth Freeman at 585-245-5893 or email [freemang@geneseo.edu](mailto:freemang@geneseo.edu).

## *Investing Livingston CARES Volunteers Time and Resources in Disaster Recovery Efforts*

The most recent estimates from the Independent Section suggests the total value of our volunteer efforts at \$2,311,941. This is calculated through estimating a wage of \$29.19 per hour for 1,491 volunteers on 88 Livingston CARES week-long service trips to Biloxi, Long Island/Staten Island/Brooklyn, Detroit, Stony Point, Texas, Puerto Rico, Florida Keys, Florida Panhandle and Orlando (Give Kids the World). In addition to their time, volunteers paid trip fees of \$59,640.00 to participate in the 88 service trips. Livingston CARES has also received gifts and donations to assist volunteers with travel expenses and for

projects in Harrison County and the New York metropolitan area. Since CARES was established in 2005, Livingston CARES has received \$66,220.00 in unrestricted gifts and donations from individuals and organizations and has raised \$51,846.00 from events such as the Get Celebrities (faculty) Out of Jail and the fall and spring Gumbo to Go Dinners. In 2006, the Division of Student & Campus Life contributed \$12,250.00 to help pay for transportation and to assist students with expenses on the January and March trips. We also received \$20,000.00 in grants from the New York State Legislature (Senator Dale Volker) to assist with funding trips to Mississippi. More recently, the Student Association has been contributing funds to assist students with travel expenses. In 2013, the SUNY Geneseo Student Association allocated \$2,900.00 and Phi Eta Sigma Honorary donated \$2,500.00 to assist students with travel expenses and help provide scholarships for the 2014 trips. Since 2014, the Student Association allocated \$3,000.00 each year to assist students with grants for travel expenses. In 2019, Student Association increased the allocation to \$5,000.00. The Geneseo Chapter of United University Professions (UUP) has also provided financial assistance to members of the faculty and staff participating in service trips. The Center for Community also provides in-kind support and supplies to assist student volunteer and service activities. CARES funds have been used to assist student volunteers with travel expenses.

#### *Volunteer Service Trips to Harrison County, Mississippi*

Livingston CARES has recruited volunteers to work on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi since 2006. Livingston County CARES has sent 974 volunteers on forty service trips beginning with the first trip in January 2006 and ending with this past March 2019 trip.

#### *Harrison County Mississippi Projects Related to Hurricane Katrina*

Livingston CARES donated funds to support various projects in Harrison County, Mississippi. Including the six projects described below:

#### *Livingston County Coalition of Churches Tools for Katrina Project*

In the spring of 2006, the Livingston County Coalition of Churches, as a Livingston CARES project, organized the Tools for Katrina Project. 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. Some 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 \$660.00 to purchase uniforms 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 the restoration of the youth recreation complex in her district north of Biloxi. CARES donated \$2,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a flagpole. 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 this 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 preschool 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 \$2,000.00 was made and the funds were used to purchase equipment for the classrooms in the renovated facilities.

### *Garden Clubs Donations*

The Geneseo Garden Club and Livonia Garden Club contributed funds to help with the recovery efforts. On the May 2009 trip visit to the Katrina Memorial Park in Biloxi, volunteers noticed a southern live oak had died and inquired about replacing the tree. The city and county officials agreed to accept a new tree as a gift to the City of Biloxi. 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 nine 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 all the service trips have learned about the destruction caused by Katrina and how important volunteer assistance to families and communities has been since the hurricane in 2005. Our initial commitment made in the fall of 2005 was to continue our work for ten years. After celebrating ten years of work on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi in 2016, Livingston CARES extended our volunteer efforts through a partnership with the Biloxi Back Bay Mission that incorporates work in a homeless day shelter, food pantry and soup kitchen as well as construction projects serving homeless and low income families. Our board is interested in continuing our work on the Gulf Coast, in part because Mississippi has such high poverty rates and the lowest income per capita in the United States.

#### *Grants to Recovery Agencies in Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas*

Livingston CARES invited the campus community to donate funds for recovery efforts after the 2018 Hurricanes (Harvey, Irma and Maria) and again in 2019 after Hurricane Michael. The funds were combined and are now included under the General Hurricane Fund in the 2019 Annual Report to the Community. Donors have the option to identify which hurricane or area where they would like their donations to be directed. To date, funds have been used to fund critical needs of our host sites in Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas. We purchased a portable generator (\$500.00) to be used by volunteers at recovery centers in Texas; an electric sander (\$459.00) for the recovery center in Big Pine Key, Florida; and a kitchen commercial refrigerator (\$886.43) for use in preparing meals for the volunteers at the Campamento de Mujeres de Patillas Camp in Puerto Rico. We have asked our host sites to identify additional items that we might consider funding.

#### *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. A new volunteer effort was initiated in the spring of 2010, which involved seven groups of SUNY Geneseo students, who worked on seven projects in various locations throughout Livingston County, as a 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 program was expanded and included 17 student groups that worked on different projects in almost every town in the county. Each year, the goal is to engage students in every town and village in Livingston County. In 2019, Livingston CARES, the Center for Community and Alpha Phi Omega sent teams to

several towns in Livingston County. 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 within the county.

#### *Haiti Relief and Recovery*

In January 2010, the CARES board established a Haiti Relief Fund to assist in recovery efforts. Numerous college organizations and individuals from the campus and community donated monies to this fund. In November 2010, the CARES board also approved a special appeal for more contributions to purchase water purification kits to help stop the cholera epidemic. Donations totaling \$8,255.30 were received and most of the funds have been given to the HOPE Foundation headed by Emeriti Professor Rose-Marie Chierici for targeted projects in Borgne, Haiti. The projects included resettlement of two families in Port au Prince, the purchase of three teacher boxes for use in Haiti, the establishment of a nursery to grow trees for reforestation, and the purchase of over forty water purification kits. Livingston CARES sent funds to the HOPE Foundation to create water storage units at natural springs in the Borgne area of Haiti. This fall, the Haiti Fund balance of \$707.75 was donated to the HOPE Foundation for use emergency room supplies at the hospital in Borgne, Haiti.

#### *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. One major project, the Ghana Project, was approved to help with education projects in Ghana. The Ghana Project later became recognized as a student organization. In the spring of 2013, \$1500.00 was sent to assist in the building of a school in Besease, Ghana. In March 2013, \$1500.00 was donated from the Ghana fund to build a kindergarten classroom that is attached to a new grade 1-6 building. The new classroom is being built for the teacher who originally donated his time to start the school in the village. The Ghana Project students also purchased school supplies to donate to the new classroom. In 2016, \$156.37 worth of school supplies were sent with two group members traveling to Ghana. The remaining balance in the Ghana Project fund was donated in April 2014 to assist the Agogo Presbyterian Hospital in Accra, Ghana with a classroom to educate area families on disease prevention. Several academic departments and the Study Abroad Office at SUNY Geneseo are involved in the Ghana project. In 2011, the second project was established to assist with the El Sauce, Nicaragua programs that include building schools and microfinance projects. The Las Minita School was built in January of 2012 and the La Flor School was built in 2013. A microfinance project was also created to help women and businesses with loans to establish business projects in the El Sauce area. A current status report on the latest school projects is included in this Annual Report to the Community. The third project 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. Funds raised by the HEROS volunteers are used to support gas reimbursements to volunteers for the trips to the schools.

#### *Tornado Relief Fund*

In the winter and spring of 2011, the United States experienced a series of violent storms and tornadoes that destroyed entire towns and villages including Joplin, Missouri. Although we made a fundraising appeal to the campus community, only a few contributors responded with donations totaling \$533.00. The CARES board voted to transfer the funds to the Hurricane Sandy Relief fund.

#### *Flood Relief Fund*

In early September of 2011, Tropical Storm Irene and Lee devastated several areas of New York State. We established a fund to help student groups with travel expenses on two Saturday trips to the Binghamton and Owego areas. We worked with Sean Phillips (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship), Denice Szafran (Anthropology), Amy Sheldon (Geology), and Brian Sheldon (Livonia Central School) to sponsor a bus work trip on October 15, 2011. Twenty-six students and two faculty members participated in the trip. The expenses for the trip were \$643.79.

#### *Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund*

In November 2012, the CARES board established a Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund in response to the devastation of the superstorm in the New York metropolitan area. The college collected \$1675.00 through the Geneseo Foundation to assist with the Livingston CARES Hurricane Sandy Relief efforts. To date, CARES has deposited a total of \$10,282.25 in the fund. Monies have been used to support the volunteer work trips and to assist agencies that support the recovery efforts. Livingston CARES donated \$1,700.00 to the Bethel United Methodist Church on Staten Island to purchase cots and supplies for housing volunteers, \$1,850.00 to Community United Methodist Church Disaster Relief Center in Massapequa for supplies to assist with housing of volunteers, and \$2,500.00 to the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for the purchase of construction equipment and supplies for the recovery efforts on the south shore of Long Island. Most recently, Livingston CARES donated \$1,400.00 to St. Bernard's Project to purchase a table saw for use in reconstruction projects. In May 2013, nineteen volunteers worked on Staten Island and in March 2013, sixteen volunteers worked on the south shore of Long Island. The following May, a third work trip with fourteen volunteers worked on Staten Island. In January 2014, seven volunteers worked on Staten Island and in March 2014 fourteen volunteers worked at two locations on Long Island. Seven volunteers also worked on houses on Staten Island in May. In 2015, seven volunteers worked on Staten Island in January, seven volunteers worked

on Long Island in March and seven volunteers worked on Staten Island in May. CARES collaborated with the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church on the fourteen work trips to Staten Island/Long Island. In 2016, seven volunteers worked on a home in Brooklyn in January and seven volunteers worked on the same house in March. Six volunteers also worked on two houses in May and all three groups worked under the supervision of Rebuilding Together NYC in collaboration with the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. In March and May of 2017, six volunteers on each of the two service trips worked under the supervision of St. Bernard's Project. In March of 2018 and March of 2019, our two teams of six volunteers again worked with SBP on projects related to recovery from Hurricane Sandy. SBP is the only remaining volunteer agency still focusing on recovery work from Hurricane Sandy. The 2018 and 2019 teams were housed at the Geneseo Red Hook apartment.

#### *2017 & 2018 Hurricane Fund*

In September of 2017, three major hurricanes devastated large areas of Texas, Florida, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Livingston CARES responded by creating the 2017 Hurricane Recovery Fund. Announcements to the campus community were made immediately after Henry, Irma and Maria occurred in September. During the period from September 2017 through March 2018, 21 individuals and organizations have contributed \$2,740.52 to the fund. At the Avon Elementary School, Hailey Smith, a fourth grade student, took the initiative to organize a special appeal to help raise money for the recovery efforts and Hailey and the Avon Parent Teacher Association presented a check for \$1,043.41 to the Livingston CARES 2017 Hurricane Fund. The board is reviewing several options for use of these funds in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

#### *Geneseo/Groveland Food Pantry*

In the summer of 2017 the Geneseo / Groveland Food Pantry (The Pantry) lost its sponsoring agency when the Livingston County Coalition of Churches ceased operations. The Pantry asked Livingston CARES to become the 501 (c) 3 non-profit parent organization and the board approved a formal agreement between the two organizations. Livingston CARES is not funding the pantry, and The Pantry maintains its own bank account and financial records. The agreement permits The Pantry to seek grant funding under the auspices of the tax exempt status of Livingston CARES.

#### *Home Away From Home Respite Program*

Last year, the Home Away From Home Respite Program that serves senior citizen families at the Geneseo Interfaith Center needed a sponsoring agency in order to continue operations. Livingston CARES agreed to support the program and assume responsibility for seeking grants and funding. We

received a large grant from the Mueller Foundation and smaller, but significant, gifts from the Central Presbyterian Church and an anonymous donor. Funding of the program is secure through the next academic year. In August 2018, we conducted a search for a director and hired Sharon Leary to run the program. Campus Auxiliary Services (CAS) agreed to serve as the employer for the manager and Livingston CARES reimburses CAS for payroll expenses. See more details about the program in Sharon Leary's report included in this annual report.

# SERVICE TRIP REPORTS - MAY 2018 - MARCH 2019

## Report on Livingston CARES May 2018

### Service Trip to Puerto Rico | *Prepared by Daniel Martin*

The week of May 14-20<sup>th</sup>, a group of seven Geneseo students along with faculty member Fatima Rodriguez Johnson and Alumni Daniel Martin traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico with Livingston CARES as a part of Hurricane Maria relief work. Their trip got off to a rocky start for one, as Daniel was delayed almost a full day due to weather. The rest of the group arrived to San Juan on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and made their way to the United Methodist Church who would host us for the week. That night as all the students and Fatima got settled in, they went through orientation and were given a project for the week, working on the exterior of a home located about 30 minutes outside San Juan.

The next day, the team traveled in the morning to the work site and met the homeowner, Dennis. Working along with the team would be foreman, Louis, and translator, Gregory. To start the day, the students learned how to use a power saw and hand saw. They took turns cutting a siding that would go between the new metal roof and siding of the house. We were told that these boards would help to keep bats and wind from getting into the home. Around noon that day, Daniel finally arrived to meet up with the team. After finishing cutting the boards, we then set out to screw them into place while other members followed caulking the boards to make sure to provide a clean seal. That was all for the team for the first day of work. We packed up and headed back to the church to prepare for dinner, play a game of Contact and head to bed for a well-deserved nights rest.

Next morning, we were back at it with a 7am wake up call, which was easier for some of us. While a couple members continued to put and caulk the siding, others began to sand down the exterior of the house to prepare it to get a fresh coat of paint. Louis also began the task of building a staircase in the front of the house. As the team worked fast and efficiently, as all Geneseo groups do, Louis and Dennis stopped us for a snack break. Dennis brought over what was a sort of homemade fruit syrup ice pop. They were delicious and soon became a daily ritual and something the whole team looked forward to! We closed out day two with the siding completed, much of the sanding done and the staircase about halfway! It was this day too that we gained a new team member. An adorable dog that had made its home underneath Dennis's home. Throughout the week Brooke and Caroline cared for this sweet girl. You could see their love for this dog rub off on Dennis who ended up taking care of her when we left later in the week. To help, Caroline and Brooke bought food for the dog, now named Carolina, and left

notes to help Dennis. On the way back to camp, Gregory took a nice detour so that we could enjoy a Puerto Rican beach!

Again we had a 7am wake up call on Thursday, with Dan and Rachael getting an earlier start to go for a run to explore the surrounding neighborhood. Our work was moving right along at the house. We jumped right back into work. Teams finished sanding down the house and building the staircase as we waited for the paint to arrive. As soon as it did, everyone jumped into action and began painting the exterior of the house. In one day's time, we got almost one full coat on the house. We packed up for the day and went back to camp. We quickly changed and went to explore Old San Juan before dinner. We walked through the town and made our way to the beautiful and scenic Castillo San Felipe del Morro.

Our last two days of work were quick. We wanted to make sure to finish all the painted. The staircase was completed and we just had those hard to reach places left to paint. When the team was done, it was great to be able to step back and look at the work that we had done. We were told all week that they wished they had planned more for us to do as we worked much faster than any other team they had before, which I think says so much about the students on this trip and Geneseo in general. When it was all said and done, this team of nine had put on a siding, sanded down a house, put two plus coats of paint on, and built a staircase. We gathered for a group picture in front of Dennis's home with him, Gregory and Louis. As we said our goodbyes and thank you, it was easy to tell the team was proud of the work that was accomplished and was well worth the trip. On Saturday after packing up, Fatima was able to go to Ponce to see her family, while Dan was able to show the students the National Cemetery and then to the El Yunque rainforest before hitting the beach one last time.

Sunday morning was an early wake up call for the whole team. Reese had an early 7:30 flight out so as one last team bonding, we all decided to go see the sunrise from the beach after dropping her off. It seemed like a fitting end to such a great trip in a beautiful place. We headed back to camp, packed up and then got the unique chance to join the Sunday church service. It was a great experience for all and you could really feel how grateful everyone was for us coming to help, even if they weren't directly affected by the work we did, which is something that I always hold close to my heart every trip, even after five trips. After church we said our goodbyes and departed on our flights back home.

This was my first trip with Livingston CARES as an alumni. It was the most impactful for me as well. With my family being from Puerto Rico and still having family on the island, this storm hit home for me. To be able to have the chance to go back to a place my family calls home and provide help and support, meant the world to me. More so, to be able to share this with the next generation of Geneseo students

meant so much more. It combined two places that I love dearly and have impacted my life immensely, Puerto Rico and Geneseo. To be able to see that the giving spirit and generosity of these Geneseo students showed me that the caliber of students is still very high at Geneseo.

## Trip Participants

Sarah Ball

Rachael Guinther

Daniel Martin\*

Reese Dziendziel

Maizy Guyer

Fatima Rodriguez Johnson\*

Caroline Gill

Alicja Kazmierowska

Brooke Stickle

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

\*\*Denotes student leader

# Report on Livingston CARES May 2018

## Service Trip to Biloxi | *Prepared by Craig Bolesky*

Five students and I rendezvoused in New Orleans on Sunday May 13th. We took time to taste and feel the senses of New Orleans and headed for Back Bay Mission in Biloxi.

After our introductory meeting with Craig and Benny (on site construction managers) we dug right in with 2 students working at the Micah center on Monday. The rest of the team went to the Gulfport work site and helped install a handicap ramp for a lady who has been diagnosed with MS. The need is approaching for her to use a wheelchair and she didn't have the means to install the needed ramp. We also worked on putting skirting around the bottom perimeter of the house to keep unwanted creatures from getting in. The students learned many new skills and totally enjoyed that experience.

This was a very active group of students with an obvious passion to serve. That was reflected in the fact that almost everyone in the group volunteered at all the Back Bay Mission services (Micah Center, Loaves and Fishes, Food Pantry, and on site rehabilitation work), and in many instances more than once. The appreciation shown by everyone at Back Bay, as well as the guests that were served, was really truly over the top for us. They definitely made us feel needed and wanted, and we came away knowing that we did make a difference.

On Thursday night Connie Rockco, and a fellow Harrison County Supervisor Bev, provided a wonderful evening of dining and conversation for the group. Connie and Bev are able to impact Biloxi and the surrounding county through their work politically. They serve with passion and love for the community...all mixed in with humor and solid values. We are fortunate to be able to call them friends and associates of Livingston CARES.

Our group was small in number, but big on impact. We had a wonderful time, a great experience, and we all came away knowing that we had a difference in the lives of the impoverished and homeless in Harrison County.

### Trip Participants

Craig Bolesky\*

Cynthia Medina

Abigail Vensel

Rachel Campbell

Kevin Pierce\*\*

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

\*\* Denotes a student leader

# Report on Livingston CARES January 2019

## Service Trip to Puerto Rico | *Prepared by Betsy Colón and Joanna Kirk*

Team Puerto Rico (PR) arrived in San Juan on Saturday, January 12, 2019 and traveled south for two hours to a small town named Patillas. The *Campamento de Mujeres* in Patillas became their “home base” for the service week. This is where food and lodging was provided.

The official host for this trip was the *Methodist Church of Puerto Rico*. Alongside the *Methodist Church of Puerto Rico* is *Re-Ace*. *Re-Ace* is the accounting arm of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico which oversees the finance, accounting and job assignments. Team PR was assigned two projects, both of which were on residential properties. In order to accommodate the two projects, the PR Team was split into two working groups. The residential properties were located in the municipality of Santa Isabel, which was approximately 28 miles west of Patillas.

Team PR #1 worked at a single mother’s home. The initial project was to replace the home’s roof. Their work involved carpentry, tape measuring, and making joists and fastening them onto the roof. During periods of down-time, they cleaned the yard and cut timber. The yard work revealed Hurricane Maria’s force. Everything small and large was crushed together, from trees, cement walls, car parts, bathroom pieces, toys, and kitchen utensils. Not too far from this home was a memorial built by the neighborhood locals. It was comprised of toys, photos and signs.

Team PR #2 was at a residence where the primary focus was rebuilding an entire room. Their first assignment was to create space in the home’s side garage, making room for the delivery of new construction materials. Once the materials arrived, they unloaded and stacked the wood panels and posts. Then began the demolition of damaged walls, replacing them with new posts and panels. This team built saw horses, set up scaffolding, ran power equipment (circular and reciprocating saws), and learned the proper use of carpentry tools (hammers, nailing, nail pullers, measuring tape, etc.).

Aside from the work schedule, Team PR immersed itself in as much of the Puerto Rican culture as possible in a week. They attended a Methodist church service, visited nearby sites and cities, went swimming in ocean beaches and a river, ate ethnic foods, dined at local restaurants, and practiced a lot of Spanish. Two major highlights were connecting with as many native islanders and internalizing the island as a whole. Puerto Rico’s landscape has breathtaking ocean beaches, incredible mountain views, bright blue skies, vibrant green plants with blooming flowers and a variety of wildlife ... birds, iguanas,

land crabs, wild horses, and stray cats and dogs. Team PR is extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to serve in Puerto Rico.

### Trip Participants

Renee Allen	Grace Edmonds	Elizabeth Reynolds
Natalie Amidon	Brooke French	Madeline Stoklosa
Stephen Chaparro	Joanna Kirk *	Stephanie Wall
Betsy Colón*	Elena Kleinhenz	Anissa Wilkens
Amanda Daniels**	Karilyn Nieves	

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

\*\*Denotes student leader

## Report on Livingston CARES January 2019

### Service Trip to Big Pine Key, Florida | *Prepared by Tom Matthews and Claire Raleigh*

On Saturday, January 12, our fourteen Florida bound volunteers joined the Houston volunteers on the same Southwest flight from Rochester to Baltimore. Our group included three community residents, one college administrator and ten college students. We landed in Ft. Lauderdale at 6:00 pm, loaded seven people and luggage into two vans, drove down the Florida Keys and arrived at our home for the week on Big Pine Key at around 11:00 pm. We accidentally woke up Trent and Mandy Hardiman and their baby Audry who were our hosts and housemates for the week.

On Sunday morning, we ate a light breakfast and drove about 40 minutes south to enjoy a day in Key West. We started our visit by posing for a group photo at the southernmost point of land in the continental United States. All the students headed to a nearby small beach to enjoy the salt water and work on a suntan. They also enjoyed a Panini restaurant and ice cream while watching the numerous roosters looking for food. After finding a parking place, the four non-students enjoyed roaming the streets, seeing the Truman White House and other landmarks and eating at a Cuban restaurant. In the late afternoon, everyone met at Mallory Square to enjoy the street performers and watch the beautiful sunset. We then headed back to Big Pine Key to buy groceries for the next few days at the Winn Dixie located just across the street. After cooking a breakfast dinner with pancakes, eggs, and toast, we settled in for our second night at Big Pine Key.

On Monday, we had breakfast, packed our lunches, and drove back across the seven-mile bridge to the Marathon United Methodist Church for orientation and a briefing on our work assignments for the week from Paul Durocher, the UMCOR construction manager for projects on the island of Marathon. We also met George and Penny Mase and Joan and Larry Vars who worked with us throughout the week. Both of our teams then drove several miles to the trailer park home of Fran and Bobby Newman. Everyone pitched in to help move boxes and clear out the Florida room of their trailer so the first team of seven volunteers could then begin work on reconstructing the entire room. The project for the week included interior demolition of the bamboo ceiling and walls, removal and replacement of insulation, installation of new paneling and windows, and removal and replacement of electrical outlets and wiring. Doug Hollinger and Les Buell worked the team and students were able to learn how to use numerous construction tools and equipment.

The second team then drove back down the island to the second construction site, a two family condominium severely damaged by Hurricane Irma. The team met Brandon Boman and his wife who were living in a small trailer in front of the condo. Brandon works as the only IT specialist recruited to

help the City of Marathon recover from the hurricane. This project provided many opportunities for the students to learn from Tom Wilson how to operate multiple construction tools on many different phases of rebuilding, including removing floor tiles, installing and uninstalling sheet rock on both walls and ceilings, mudding but not sanding walls, and learning how to reframe windows and even how to install a pocket door.

After work and the 40-minute drive back to our home for the week on Big Pine Key at 280 Key Deer Boulevard, everyone took turns using the one bathroom in the house and shower rooms at the adjacent church. Each night volunteers pitched in to prepare meals with different specialties ranging from pasta to tacos. Evening highlights included different games and taking turns playing with baby Audry. On Wednesday night, Fran and Bobby Newman invited the teams to enjoy hamburgers and an evening at the Marathon Elks Club. Turns out that Bobby was a professional musician and singer from Canada who played keyboards and toured with bands throughout his career before retiring to Florida. Fran sang with Bobby for several familiar songs and got almost everyone on the dance floor throughout the evening.

On our last morning of work on Friday, the team at Fran and Bobby's trailer finished the project and moved all the household items back into the now livable Florida room. The second team finished some of the various projects, cleaned up as much as possible and returned all the tools and equipment to the construction trailer. Both teams ate lunch and spent the afternoon enjoying a warm and sunny Florida day at the Marathon public beach. Later, after consuming most of the leftovers in our final meal together, everyone pitched in to clean the house and pack for the trip home. We then shared reflections and stories on the service experience at a bonfire complete with s'mores.

On Saturday morning, we left at 4:45 am for the long road trip back to the Ft. Lauderdale airport. After checking in and eating a quick lunch, we learned that Southwest cancelled our connecting flight from Baltimore to Rochester due to the major winter storm. We were able to convince a helpful counter agent to rebook us to Buffalo on a flight leaving within the hour. We arrived mid-afternoon in Buffalo without our luggage, but were able to rent a van and drive on the Thruway back to Rochester.

Special thanks to our community volunteers, Tom Wilson, Doug Hollinger and Les Buell, who are all retired K-12 teachers. Each of them shared how much they enjoyed working with our enthusiastic and hardworking college students, and for the opportunity to help teach the students practical and useful life skills.

## Trip Participants

Maria Anderson

Doug Hollinger\*

Elizabeth Strysko

Madeleine Brilling\*\*

Tom Matthews\*

Morgan Torre

Les Buell\*

Madeline Flamik

Erica Greenberg

Maria McCaffrey

Lilliana Proe

Claire Raleigh

Kathleen Tuthil

Tom Wilson\*

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

\*\*Denotes student leader

# Report on Livingston CARES January 2019

## Service Trip to Port Arthur, Texas | *Prepared by Nick Palumbo*

On January 12, twelve of our Houston volunteers joined with the Florida volunteers and took the same Southwest flight from Rochester to Baltimore. Our group included one Herkimer county resident, one college administrator, and eleven college students. We landed in Houston Texas, loaded thirteen people and luggage into two vans, drove 90-minutes East to Port Arthur and arrived at The Shepherd's Inn around 10:00 pm. After unloading our luggage, we got back into the vans and went shopping for the week. After getting back to The Inn around 11:00 pm, we unpacked again and settled down for a well-deserved sleep.

Our crew started working on Sunday morning. After eating breakfast and packing our lunches for the job site, we split into two teams. Our crew would stay in these two teams for the remainder of the service trip. UMCOR Texas had boldly provided our crew with seven different projects to tackle during our stay. To meet this need, our crew split up to address these projects. The first two projects were in Port Arthur. Group 1 headed to the home of Mary and Bill Williams where they were charged with installing doors, door knobs, and cutting and installing door trim. Group 2 headed to the home of Mia Tran where they were charged with finish painting the interior of a large ranch before installing doors. After running into some equipment issues, Group 1 was able to get most of the doors and trim done at the Williams' home. While Group 2 made considerable progress painting the Tran house, it became apparent the paint job would be a multi-day endeavor, so attention was shifted to painting around doorways to prep for door installation. After a long first day of work, our crew met back at The Inn to cook dinner, relax, and play card games.

The rest of our week followed a similar trajectory, leaving for the worksites by 9:00 am and getting home around 5:00 pm to decompress and refuel. Although our divide and conquer approach seemed to be working, the groups needed to converge on a few of the larger jobs to close out as many projects as possible. The need to converge happened as early as Monday, January 14th, when Group 1 headed over to the Tran House to start installing doors, door knobs, and cut and install door trim, while Group 2 was still painting the interior of the house. It was through these collaborations that our crew was able to close out multiple large projects. Beyond working on houses, our entire crew spent half a day doing yard clean up at the home of Maggie Swafford. This job involved raking and bagging leaves, collecting any trash, and moving items in her home. After just about three hours of work, our crew did a job that would have taken the homeowner weeks to do on her own. Although Ms. Swafford's house was beautiful and finished, having the exterior of her home cleaned up seemed to be the last thing keeping her from feeling at home

after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

Our crew went on to collaborate and work independently on the seven different projects assigned to us. These projects required us to do everything from mudding and hanging doors to putting furniture together. By the end of our last workday on Thursday, January 17th, we had served seven different families across Port Arthur and Beaumont. And we closed out all seven of the projects given to us by UMCOR.

After a week of hard work, our crew was excited to take off Friday to spend in Houston. After breaking into groups, our crew spent all day exploring the diverse cuisine, rich history, and attractions in Houston.

### Trip Participants

Megan Bass

Morgan Hernandez

Matthew Russell

Vanessa Cepeda

Ryan Mathers

Parker

Slawetsky

Ryan Chin-Sang\*\*

Denis Mazariegos

Sonny Smith\*

Mathew Granger

Patricia McCasland\*\*

Jasmin Vrooman

Nick Palumbo\*

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

\*\*Denotes student leader

# Report on Livingston CARES March 2019

## Service Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi | *Prepared by Craig Bolesky*

Four students and I had an early flight at 6AM out of Rochester and arrived in NOLA at 10 AM. This afforded us time for the students to soak up the sensations of NOLA for a few hours before making the 90-minute drive to Biloxi. Since we arrived on Saturday, it gave us a free day to get ourselves acquainted and reacquainted with Biloxi and form a bit of a “feel” for the city. Our Monday morning meeting with Craig Steenkamp (projects manager) got everyone comfortable with the upcoming week and answered a lot of questions for the students.

The Back Bay Mission is a wonderful connection that we have with Biloxi because it affords us so many opportunities to be directly involved with the homeless and impoverished there. Micah Day Center is a welcoming place for the homeless to go to get their day going with showers, clean clothes, and other daily services that they need. The Food Pantry is a client select operation that Back Bay operates. Loves and Fishes is an affiliate of (but not operated by) Back Bay that operates as a soup kitchen serving 130-150 truly delicious meals daily. Participants in the Biloxi trip can participate in any or all of these services.

Of course construction projects occur daily. Our group was able to start and complete the painting of Pat Tatum's house...interior and front steps and door. Pat is a very proud 60 year old lady with two teenage grandsons living with her. She is becoming increasingly debilitated by back and leg issues, but continues to work and earn money, though not enough to support anything above daily living expenses. We treated her to dinner at The Shed and had a wonderful evening with her. She was "over the top" elated with the work we accomplished at her house. On Friday she made us collard greens, fried chicken and peach cobbler that was to die for!

A coincidental pleasure we had on this trip was sharing Back Bay with a group of 10 people from a UCC Church from Geneseo, Il. Angie Snook is the town Historian for them and it happened that she was in the group. She said that many years ago (I forget the year) 26 people from Geneseo, N.Y. headed west and started the town of Geneseo Il. It is a thriving village of almost 7,000 and has many traits of our own Geneseo. On Monday they shared a lasagna dinner with us, and on Wednesday we reciprocated with a chicken and biscuit dinner. A strong bond was formed.

On Friday as we were driving from the worksite back to the Back Bay facility we were at a stoplight and noticed a homeless gentleman with a sign standing at the corner. When Laura turned to look at him, he recognized her from Micah House earlier in the week, and as he shook a fist in the air (in a good way) he yelled

“Back Bay Mission!! All Right Back Bay”!!!

## Trip Participants

Caleb Arens

Adam Clarke

Udeshi Seneviratne

Craig Bolesky\*

Laura Huff\*\*

Jessica Tremper

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

\*\* Denotes a student leader

# Report on Livingston CARES March 2019

## Service Trip to Big Pine Key, Florida | *Prepared by Holly Harvey and Phil Natoli*

Our trip started late on Saturday as all volunteers had late flights in to Fort Lauderdale. We were a group of 13, 2 team leaders, 2 alumni and 9 students. We made our way south arriving in Big Pine Key at 3:00 in the morning. We were staying at the parsonage to the Big Pine Key United Methodist Church, where we were welcomed by UMCOR and our housemates for the week Trent and Mandy Harriman and their delightful baby daughter Audrey.

Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, was a sleep in morning. Fortunately, the beautiful weather allowed us to spend the day at a local beach where many people found out how intense the Florida sun is.

We (the red van) worked on several projects during the course of the week. We put the finishing touches (trim work, baseboard and drywall) on three different houses. We all learned a lot of new skills and we were able to do enough work that all three of the houses were deemed finished by Thursday.

The other group (the white van) did some finishing work, but also worked on the host site and the exterior and decking of the future volunteer campus. The future campus will be comprised of mobile trailers that can be placed around the Keys according to need. The parsonage that served us, will be vacated soon as a new minister is coming to the church and the parsonage will be his home.

Our last day of work was in No Name Key at 83 year old Bob's house. We were all involved in painting the outdoor deck railing on his house. Bob was so appreciative of our efforts! We were also able to see first-hand what 160 mile an hour winds can do to a home. The property in front of Bob's had been damaged by Hurricane Irma, but never repaired. Thanks to our leader Trent, we were able to tour the house in small groups and see what damage those winds could do. This was a great project to end the week on.

Our week was also enhanced with the culinary skills of team leader, Holly Harvey, who cooked meals for all of us during the week.

It was not all work though. Midweek we took the day and went to Key West to see the sights and enjoy the beautiful weather. We spent the day and all ended up in Mallory Square for sunset. We also squeezed in a some mini golf with no real winner that could be agreed upon for the round. On our last evening we all went out to dinner at a waterfront restaurant in Marathon.

Everyone agreed it was a good week in Florida working, learning and making new friends!

## Trip Participants

Hannah Burns

Emily McComb

Molly Patterson

Mackenzie DeRider

Kaitlyn McNulty

Domonic Polzella\*\*

Matthew Granger

Kirsten Moziak

Ryan Quinn\*\*

Holly Harvey\*

Phil Natoli\*

Christopher Waters

Emily Ruth Maynard

Haley Olszewski

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

\*\*Denotes student leader

# Report on Livingston CARES March 2019

## Service Trip to Florida Panhandle | *Prepared by Joe Cope*

Our group worked in the Florida panhandle region that was devastated by Hurricane Michael in October 2018. One faculty/staff member (Joe Cope, Associate Provost for Student Success and Professor of History) and six students (Amanda Eng, who served as student leader, Ashlyn Nardi, Nicole Safford, Maizy Guyer, Haley Kent, and Jon Brennan) attended the trip. We departed Rochester early in the morning on Saturday, March 16 and returned late in the evening on Saturday, March 23. We worked Monday through Friday from roughly 8am to 4:30pm, with a half day off on Thursday for local sightseeing (this worked out to about 36 hours of service per team member).

The First United Methodist Church of Apalachicola was our base of operations. Apalachicola is a small community on the gulf with a long history as a port town. At one point in the late 19th century, it was the third largest city on the Gulf of Mexico, primary due to its role in shipping cotton from Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. Apalachicola was affected by Hurricane Michael and the eyewall came ashore about 30 miles to the west in Mexico Beach. Michael was the fourth most powerful storm to make landfall in the United States. Damaging winds and storm surge essentially wiped out the Mexico Beach community and caused extensive damage over about 200 miles of coastline. In addition to the destruction of coastal settlements, high winds destroyed pine forests through the interior of the Florida panhandle, and locals expressed concern about the high potential for wildfires during the coming summer.

For the first half of our trip, we interacted extensively with the pastor of the church, Reverend Themo Patriotis. Pastor Themo introduced us to the issues faced by the local community, many of which predated Hurricane Michael. Florida's "forgotten coast" has a long history of social dislocation connected to economic underdevelopment, rural poverty, and in recent years, drug addiction. These problems were worsened by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which negatively impacted the tourism and fishing industries. Although cleanup from Hurricane Michael is well underway - we saw, for example, extensive evidence of rebuilding of coastal vacation homes in Mexico Beach and Port St. Joe - local communities, especially rural communities out of the tourist areas, face years of rebuilding in the face of serious pre-existing social and economic problems.

Although our team expected to be doing more hands on work with hurricane survivors, our tasks changed once we were on the ground. The First United Methodist Church of Apalachicola is the closest staging area for rebuilding teams on the east side of the hurricane zone (Panama City is the western

staging area). The church is thus in the process of being converted into a center that will house relief teams of as many as 70 volunteers who will assist with ongoing debris removal, demolition, and reconstruction in Port St. Joe and Mexico Beach. When we arrived the church was in no condition to serve in this role. Although there was plenty of room in the church and portable showers had been moved on site, rooms needed to be cleared (they were previously being used for Sunday school classes, youth group meetings, and storage), repaired, and set up with beds to house teams. The church was also working against a tight deadline to get set up, as approximately 40 youth volunteers from Alabama were expected to use the facility starting on Thursday, March 21. The Geneseo team thus ended up concentrating on helping to quickly transform the church into a large scale volunteer center.

We worked closely through the week with Jeffrey Marshall, a member of the local congregation, who managed our tasks in setting up the church to receive volunteer teams. During construction work, we learned a lot about Jeffrey's background. He is a recovering methamphetamine addict who spent much of his 20s in and out of prison for nonviolent, drug-related offenses. Faith and work with the Apalachicola church has been key to his ongoing recovery. Some of our most powerful moments during the trip came from conversations with Jeffrey about his background growing up in the rural inland community of Wewahitchka, social and economic conditions in the panhandle, and his struggles with addiction.

The main task our group accomplished was in building from scratch 24 bunk beds for volunteer teams. Beginning with two flatbed trailers of 2x4 and 2x6 yellow pine boards, hardware, and some power tools, Jeffrey supervised the team in designing, cutting, and assembling two-tier bunk beds. The team got progressively better at this work as the week went on. The first bunk bed took the team almost a whole day to build. By Thursday and Friday, we were averaging seven or eight per day. Our work more than doubled the capacity of the church to house volunteers. Before our time in Apalachicola, the church had space to accommodate volunteer teams of less than 20; now they can easily house 50+. Although we went into the trip thinking that we would be working directly with a family or two on clean up and reconstruction, our work ended up laying the foundation for future teams to do more out of the Apalachicola base of operations. We saw the impact of this firsthand by the end of the week when two teams of youth groups from churches in Gulf Shores, Alabama arrived for weekend service work. More than 40 middle and high school age students plus their adult chaperones helped us finish up construction and clean up, and slept in the bunk beds that we made.

None of the members of Geneseo' team knew each other well before the trip. We quickly bonded and by the end of the week were working efficiently and effectively. There were almost no rough spots in the

trip, the students were respectful of differences in opinion and perspective, and decision making was based on consensus. The group has a lot to be proud of and was a real joy to work with.

There are a few other highlights from our trip to note. On Sunday, March 17, our group was invited to attend church services and a St. Patrick’s Day fellowship lunch of corned beef and cabbage. This gave us the opportunity to meet a significant part of the Apalachicola community and the role that the church is playing in trying to create community structures in the face of severe social dislocations. We also got to talk several times with Pastor Themo and Pastor Seven, who helped us understand the work that they’re doing through the church with at risk youth and addiction prevention and recovery. For free time, we had a chance to explore the area. This included a drive out to Mexico Beach and Port St. Joe where we saw the substantial devastation caused by Hurricane Michael. We also spent some time on St. George Island, a barrier island in the gulf, where we had a free afternoon for beach time and a cook out of grilled shrimp. On our last night in town, we had a nice group meal and had the chance to enjoy local oysters and other seafood.

### Trip Participants

Jonathan Brennan

Amanda Eng\*\*

Carolyn Kent

Joseph Cope\*

Maizy Guyer

Ashlyn Nardi

Nicole Safford

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

\*\*Denotes student leader

# Report on Livingston CARES March 2019

## Service Trip to Brooklyn | *Prepared by Tim Lowmaster*

Our group stayed at a SUNY Geneseo owned apartment in the Red Hook neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York.

During our stay we worked through the auspices of SBP (St. Bernard Project) to help rehabilitate a home in the Canarsie neighborhood of Brooklyn, a neighborhood still recovering from the devastation of Superstorm Sandy.

Our rehabilitation work consisted mainly of mold abatement in the home of Ms. Blanc and her family. This will be the first step toward making the lower floor of her home habitable again. Unfortunately, Ms Blanc's 3-story row house was not just inundated by Sandy's flood waters, it also had its first floor gutted by fire, leaving the family – Ms. Blanc, her sister and several children and grandchildren – crowded into the upper two floors of the house.

We donned our Tyvek protective suits, goggles and respirators and began the 3 step process of mold abatement. The first step was to expose the mold by scraping the surfaces – wall studs and floor joists – with wire brushes. Next, we sprayed and scrubbed down the surfaces with a mold killing solution. Finally, we painted the surfaces using Kilz 2 mold inhibiting paint. This process took four and a half days.

We spent the final afternoon of our time in New York City “mudding” walls in the neighborhood of Far Rockaway Island. We applied spackle to the recently repaired walls of an apartment that SBP has been preparing for painting and eventual re-habitation.

During our off hours, we explored Brooklyn (a vast, diverse and interesting “Borough”) and enjoyed some of the famous local ethnic cuisine, enjoying everything from Chinese soup dumplings to bubble tea, to famous Shake Shack hamburgers. When not “eating out” we shared the cooking and clean-up duties and enjoyed the music coming from the Irish bar which occupied the ground floor of the building in which we were staying. Karaoke night was especially entertaining – and loud.

Our group of four students and one community member greatly enjoyed our time together. We worked well together and got along extremely well as a group. We did a great deal of good, hard work and in the process, got to know and have fun with each other.

## Trip Participants

Victoria Bui  
Adam Clarke

Timothy Lowmaster\*

Dimitri Wing-Paul  
Jasmine Yeoh

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

# Report on Give Kids the World March 2019

## Alternative Spring Break Trip | *Prepared by David Parfit*

Year 10. A decade of traveling with 13 college students for our annual Give Kids The World alternative break service trip. At Give Kids The World (GKTW), families with children with life-threatening illnesses get a week-long, cost-free vacation to Florida, and volunteers (like my group) help to serve food, provide nightly entertainment, and staff the Village. Geneseo's 10th volunteer group to GKTW left campus around 6:00pm on Friday, March 15, and were in in Kissimmee, FL until Saturday, March 23, 2019.

We didn't arrive at our rental house until well after midnight on Saturday, March 16. The group slept in, went to the grocery store to stock the house with food, and then headed to GKTW Village for an afternoon tour and service project. After learning about the history of the Village, we washed the exterior windows of 2/3 of the villas on the property.

Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, was our first chance to work directly with the families when we served dinner at Nancy's Kitchen. Our group of 13 students were divided among checking in guests, serving food, delivering trays, bussing tables, and cleaning up. Afterwards, at the suggestion of Caroline Gill, we gathered together to reflect on our initial experiences in the Village. Traditionally, I have saved this sort of reflection to the last day of the trip, but I greatly appreciated the suggestion and enjoyed hearing everyone's experiences with the families. We continued this reflection each day.

On Monday, March 18, before our volunteer shift at GKTW, we were treated to an airboat ride on Cypress Lake at Wild Florida where we spotted alligators, a nesting sandhill crane, herons, egrets, and even a soaring bald eagle all in their natural habitat. This was such a different sight than the tourist side of Kissimmee, FL and an even bigger difference from our Geneseo home in western New York. We were back in the Village for the Monday evening Halloween party all dressed in costume to distribute candy and play games with the wish families.

Our one, full day off from Give Kids The World Village was Tuesday, March 19. It came a little earlier in the week when we were still getting into the flow and routine of the Village. However, the students embraced their day off, and the majority spent the day at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom (three of the students stayed back and relaxed in the house).

After spending 14 hours at the theme park, everyone was back at Give Kids The World first thing Wednesday morning. We were spread throughout the different venues, helping wish kids with horseback

rides, find their star in the castle, and ride the attractions in the Village. That evening we celebrated our week of service with a group dinner (and tournament) at Medieval Times.

On Thursday, March 21 we had double shifts in the Village, working from 2-9pm. The students were thrilled when Give Kids The World called to tell us they needed 13 volunteers for the afternoon shift, and everyone gladly offered to spend more time with the wish families. In the evening, we staffed the weekly Winter Wonderland party and parade (where every child in the Village receives a present from Santa).

Friday, March 22 was our final volunteer shift in the Village. The week went quickly, as always, and after our volunteer work ended we lingered in the chapel at Give Kids The World to read reflections of the families that previously visited as well as share our own reflections on our week of volunteering with each other. After heading back to the house to pack and clean for our early Saturday morning flight, we enjoyed one last Walt Disney World activity at Yehaa Bob Jackson’s show!

In this divided time in our country, illness is certainly an equalizer. It doesn’t matter what race, class, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, illness can strike without discrimination. Our week of service certainly puts deadlines, assignments, and college work in perspective, and hopefully helps the students deal with everyday life.

### Trip Participants

Hannah Chase **	Shea Kinsella *	Lauren Saggese
Jenna Geraghty	Danielle Levy	Seveyn Whyte
Caroline Gill	Shannon Marlatt	Anissa Wilkens
Melissa Herman	Patricia McCasland	Heather Wood
Hannah Jewell	David Parfitt *	

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

\*\*Denotes student leader

# Report on Livingston CARES March 2019

## Service Trip to Puerto Rico | *Prepared by Dilynn Livesey*

Our group of eleven students and three faculty and community member trip leaders stayed in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, about one hour from San Juan. We stayed in a camp through the United Methodist Church, and had the opportunity to meet and spend time with the amazing people who worked with us. Since we arrived on Saturday afternoon, we had all day on Saturday to explore Arecibo. On Sunday, we were able to attend a local church service, and ate lunch prepared by the women of the church. In the afternoon, we got to visit a local beach and went to a Puerto Rican restaurant, where many of our group members got to try a Puerto Rican dish called Mofongo.

On Monday, our group split into three smaller groups to each travel to different work sites that we worked at for the week. Group A, led by Bryan Rivera, went to a house in Arecibo where they worked on building a new roof for a house as well as general construction. Group B, led by Gabe Iturbides, spent the week working on a mostly unfinished house about 5 minutes away from group A. During the week, they spent a large part of their time making concrete and building up the new walls of the house. Group C, led by Fatima Rodriguez Johnson, worked on a house in Hatillo to rebuild the house's ceiling and paint the ceilings and walls of the house.

Once we finished up our week's work on Friday, we got to spend the afternoon of Friday and morning of Saturday exploring Puerto Rico. On Friday, we got to explore a cave and go on a short hike over the ocean near Arecibo. Saturday morning we got to walk around and sightsee in San Juan before our flight back to Rochester.

Overall, everyone on the trip got to meet some great people and make some lifelong friendships during the week, and each group got a significant amount of work done on the houses, while also having a lot of fun! Beyond getting the opportunity to help out and make a difference, this trip was also an amazing cultural experience and was incredibly meaningful for all of us.

### Trip Participants

Alex Basile	Elizabeth Mac Kay	Bryan Rivera *
Maggie Bosco	Emma Mancino	Fatima Rodriguez Johnson *
Marya Collins	Marykate McHale	Katy Toth
Gabe Iturbides *	Danielle Merlini	Gabi Vasilakis **
Dilynn Livesey **		Evelyn Watson

\*Denotes a faculty member/staff member/alumni/community member

\*\*Denotes student leader

# COMMUNITY PROGRAM REPORTS

## Home Away From Home Respite Center

Reported by Sharon Leary, Program Coordinator

Home Away from Home Respite Center is a respite care program for individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other memory-related diseases in Livingston County which is staffed primarily by SUNY Geneseo student volunteers. The program focuses on three components: relieving caregiver stress, enhancing the lives of individuals living with memory-related diseases, and promoting intergenerational contact between local senior citizens and college-aged students to enrich the lives of both generations.

Home Away From Home was very successful during the 2018-2019 program year. Serving approximately ten families from Livingston County with a staff consisting of one Program Coordinator, four student interns, and 21 student volunteers, HAFH offered a compassionate, caring, and safe environment for our clients.

Our bi-weekly sessions during the academic year provide our clients with an intergenerational opportunity to interact with SUNY Geneseo students and engage in appropriate physical and mental activities while providing their caregiver an opportunity to rest from and recharge for the challenges of supporting their loved one with the memory-related diseases. Each meeting is under the supervision of the Program Coordinator and is staffed by a sufficient number of student volunteers so that every client is assured of individual attention and interaction. Our facility in the Interfaith Center, just off the SUNY Geneseo campus, is spacious and easily accessible for individuals of all abilities. In addition to our services during the fall and spring academic semesters, our goal is to provide additional support during the summer, in the form of weekly respite meetings. During the summer of 2018, due to unforeseeable circumstances, we were only able to meet three times. Our goal is to increase our frequency of meetings during the summer of 2019.

HAFH is fortunate to have secured sufficient grant, in-kind, and participant support in the past to provide a stable financial base. This allows us to provide our services to our client families on a pay-as-you-can basis. We ask that each family make a weekly contribution to offset our expenses, but we are proud that we never deny services to anyone based on their ability to contribute financially to the program. Seeking sufficient funds to maintain this level of financial security is an ongoing agenda for the Program Coordinator.

The support provided by Livingston County Cares, Inc. allows HAFH to offer our much needed quality services to the residents of Livingston County. Currently there are very few out-of-home respite program in the county, so we provide a unique and needed service to our client base. Our intergenerational approach to providing respite care is effective for our clients and caregivers and is eye-opening for our volunteers. Everyone benefits and our model has a proven track record of providing excellent care in a financially sustainable manner.

# Geneseo-Groveland Emergency Food Pantry Report

Reported by Betsy Matthews

The Geneseo-Groveland Emergency Food Pantry serves the residents of the Geneseo Central School District. Food is donated through churches, businesses, through food drives, or by donations directly delivered to the pantry. Many individuals and businesses give monetary donations as well.

We have been located at Central Presbyterian Church at 31 Center Street in Geneseo since the fall of 2016 and are very proud of its success. In 2018 the Geneseo-Groveland Emergency Food Pantry assisted 771 households, including 1098 adults, 740 children and 300 Seniors. We endeavor to provide nutritious and healthy foods which include fruits and vegetables, both fresh and canned, grains of all kinds, and proteins, some frozen. The fresh vegetables from our church garden were a wonderful addition! In addition, we make paper goods and personal hygiene items available. Without the generous donations of both food and monies, we could not exist.

At Christmastime, 32 families received a food basket and over 60 children given gifts. Central Presbyterian Church assisted 5 families, St. Michael's assisted 6 families, St. Mary's Church assisted 5 families, and other families in the community assisted with the food and gifts for the 32 families. The teachers and staff at Geneseo Central assisted with 20 other families at Christmas. Milk, eggs, potatoes, carrots and apples were purchased with pantry funds to go along with the baskets.

In 2018 Wegmans gave us a grant of \$400 which purchased gift cards for each family to their own meat items for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Numerous groups and individuals from the community assist with the basket project each year including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, CPC's Youth Group, Geneseo Kiwanis, Geneseo Rotary, two classes of ARC young people, and others. Participation of all of these people is both heartwarming and greatly appreciated.

There were numerous food and monetary donations from our church throughout the year, which we appreciated beyond measure. Thank you so much for supporting those who are less fortunate in our community!

# Geneseo Goes to Town Service Day Report

Reported by Garth Freeman, Dan Martin, and Alyssa Stefanese Yates

Geneseo Goes to Town is a collaboration between four different offices and organizations on the campus of SUNY Geneseo and in the local community. This project seeks to engage students from the College in service work throughout Livingston County. The Center for Community's Office of Student Volunteerism and Community Engagement coordinates the event in partnership with Livingston CARES, the GOLD Leadership Program, and Alpha Phi Omega, Geneseo's largest service fraternity. This unique partnership leverages the strengths of each stakeholder organization to support volunteerism throughout the local region.

This year's event took place on Saturday April 6th and involved over one hundred students from athletic teams, student clubs, fraternities and sororities, and individual students serving in eight local towns including the Town and Village of Geneseo. Service projects included the Men's soccer team setting new fence posts at Begin Again Horse Rescue, the Food Security Advocates supporting the Oakwood cemetery's preservation efforts, GOLD Leader Mentors preparing the Genesee Valley Farm Discovery Center for spring activities, and members of Delta Phi Epsilon helping Linwood Gardens get ready for their upcoming tree peony festival.

The efforts of students to mobilize for service, and the community's welcoming and collective spirit make this day a great success. These activities create lasting ties the region and provide a sense of belonging. As individuals interact, and important work is done, all participants are rewarded with a more nuanced and holistic understanding of each other and how we can work together to strengthen our communities.

A new component of the Geneseo Goes to Town project this year included alums from Livingston CARES coordinating and engaging in service where they are currently residing. This national outreach effort is our way of spreading the work and spirit of Livingston CARES into towns and neighborhoods across the US and strengthening the commitment to building strong communities through volunteerism. Please see below the reports from a few of those projects:

Report from Alyssa Stefanese Yates '15:

On Saturday, April 6, 2019, Alyssa Stefanese Yates '15 (former Livingston CARES student board member/trip leader/Hurricane Sandy and Katrina relief trip volunteer) and Brandon Yates '15, joined the

Friends of Lansing Regional Trail, a local volunteer organization in Lansing, Michigan to assist in cleaning the river trail. They joined 17 other volunteers and cleaned along over 2 miles of the Grand River and Red Cedar Rivers in downtown Lansing. They chose to volunteer on this day to support Livingston CARES and SUNY Geneseo's annual "Geneseo Goes to Town" event and to give back to their new community. Serving in the upkeep of the river trail is particularly important because it serves as an area of community building for Lansing residents and a public space for individuals and families to enjoy nature with its walking trail, fishing pier, playground, and baseball fields. Its very existence also encapsulates the power of civic engagement and service because the trail was entirely created by active community members who saw the need for a communal, safe space for community members to enjoy the natural beauty of their city.

It was really important for me to set aside time on April 6th for service not only to support "Geneseo Goes to Town" but also to continue my connection to Geneseo and Livingston CARES. My time at Geneseo and my involvement in Livingston CARES cultivated within me a passion for service, for connecting with the community around me, and for supporting the community and its members in work that they value. It also put myself and Brandon a bit out of our comfort zone because we did not have any previous connections to this particular organization, but it was a great learning opportunity and an opportunity to meet people of varying lived experiences with different motivations for volunteering, yet all came together to serve their community. Although it was a small act of volunteerism in the grand scheme of things, it was a way to give back, to meet other service-minded people, and to represent all the best things about Geneseo. I can never capture how much Geneseo, both the place and the people, have given me, so I offer acts of service to honor both and to attempt to repay this debt. We hope we represented our alma mater and Livingston CARES well!

Report from Dan Martin '16:

Seven Geneseo alumni spent their Saturday morning working with The Nature Conservatory cleaning up Ossian Park in Northern Virginia. This project was a part of the watershed clean up in which over 1300 volunteers were expected over the next week to clean up 21 parks.

"Throughout my time at Geneseo, I spent my Saturday mornings volunteering with MAC (Men of Action and Change) so when the opportunity arose to volunteer in DC with Geneseo, it was a no brainer to give back to the community."- Abe Fertig-cohen

"One of my favorite parts of Geneseo was all the volunteer opportunities I had and I've been missing that since graduation! I'm so glad that my geneseo pals in the DMV still wanna get out there and help."

-Sydney Levine

"Since I moved to DC, I've been having trouble finding an outlet to give back. This was a great opportunity to not only be with friends and other members of the Geneseo community but also to get involved with the a great non-profit, the Nature Conservancy, which I hope to continue engaging with."

-Meghan Berman

List of alums engaged in service in Washington, DC as part of Geneseo Goes to Town:

Meghan Berman- '16

Sydney Levine- '18

James Polak- '14

Abe Fertig-cohen- '16

Daniel Martin-'16

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# Livingston CARES Trips History

## Hurricane Katrina Service Trips

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Community Members</b>	<b>Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni</b>
January 4-10, 2006	33	14	15	4
March 10-18, 2006	55	51	0	4
May 21-27, 2006	8	5	2	1
January 7-13, 2007	20	13	4	3
February 18-24, 2007	23	0	23	0
March 10-17, 2007	49	44	1	4
May 16-23, 2007	16	10	0	6
January 5-12, 2008	25	19	3	3
February 16-23, 2008	10	0	9	1
March 14-22, 2008	55	51	0	4
May 18-24, 2008	15	8	5	2
January 3-10, 2009	25	13	6	6
February 15-21, 2009	11	0	11	0
March 14-21, 2009	55	52	0	3
May 17-23 2009	28	23	2	3
January 3-10, 2010	29	18	6	5
March 13-20, 2010	59	54	0	5
May 16-22, 2010	20	17	1	2
January 9-15, 2011	27	20	3	4
March 13-19, 2011	28	24	0	4
May 15-21, 2011	27	20	2	5
January 8-15, 2012	28	23	3	2

## Hurricane Katrina Service Trips (cont.)

Dates	Total Participants	Students	Community Members	Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni
March 13-19, 2012	28	24	0	4
May 13-19, 2012	27	22	3	2
January 13-19, 2013	21	18	2	1
March 11-17, 2013	28	24	0	4
May 19-25, 2013	14	12	0	2
January 12-18, 2014	20	18	0	2
March 16-22, 2014	21	18	1	2
May 19-24, 2014	13	11	1	1
January 11-17, 2015	21	16	1	4
March 15-21, 2015	21	18	1	2
May 17-23, 2015	13	11	1	1
January 10-19, 2016	22	17	1	4
March 13-19, 2016	21	18	0	3
May 15-21, 2016	13	11	1	1
January 8-14, 2017	20	17	1	2
March 11-18, 2017	14	12	0	2
May 14-20, 2017	5	4	1	0
March 16-23, 2019	5	4	1	0
<b>40 Trips</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>108</b>

## 2018 & 2019 Hurricane Relief and Recovery Trips

Dates	Total Participants	Students	Community Members	Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni
January 7-13, 2018 TX	13	10	1	2
January 7-13, 2018 FL	13	11	2	0
March 10-17, 2018 PR	10	7	2	1
March 11-17, 2018 TX	8	7	0	1
March 11-17, 2018 FL	7	5	1	1
May 14-29, 2018 PR	9	7	0	2
January 12-19, 2019 FL Keys	14	10	1	3
January 12-19, 2019 PR	14	12	2	0
January 12-19, 2019 TX	13	11	1	1
March 16-23, 2019 FL Keys	13	11	1	1
March 16-23, 2019 FL Panhandle	7	6	1	0
March 16-23, 2019 PR	14	11	3	0
May 18-25, 2019 FL Keys	5	4	1	0
May 18-25, 2019 PR	13	9	1	3
14 Trips	153	121	17	15

## Hurricane Sandy Trips to Brooklyn, Staten Island & Long Island

Dates	Total Participants	Students	Community Members	Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni
January 13-19, 2013	19	12	2	5
March 12-17, 2013	16	8	6	2
May 19-25, 2013	7	5	1	1
January 12-18, 2014	7	6	1	0
March 16-22, 2014	14	7	6	1

## Hurricane Sandy Trips to Brooklyn, Staten Island & Long Island (cont.)

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Community Members</b>	<b>Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni</b>
May 18-24, 2014	7	6	0	1
January 11-17, 2015	7	6	0	1
March 15-21, 2015	7	6	1	0
May 17-23, 2015	6	5	0	1
January 10-19, 2016	7	6	0	1
March 13-19, 2016	7	6	0	1
May 15-21, 2016	5	4	0	1
March 12-18, 2017	6	5	0	1
May 14-20, 2017	6	5	1	0
March 11-17, 2018	6	5	1	0
March 16-23, 2019	5	4	1	0
<b>16 Trips</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>

### **Give Kids the World**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Community Members</b>	<b>Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni</b>
January 10-16, 2010	13	12	0	1
January 10-16, 2011	14	12	1	1
March 11-17, 2012	14	13	0	1
March 11-17, 2013	14	13	0	1
March 16-22, 2014	14	13	0	1
March 14-21, 2015	14	13	0	1
March 13-19, 2016	14	13	0	1
March 12-18, 2017	14	13	0	1

March 10-17, 2018	14	13	0	1
March 16-23, 2019	14	13	0	1
10 Trips	139	128	1	10

### Other Trips

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Community Members</b>	<b>Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni</b>
2008 March-Ohio River Outing Club Trip	20	20	0	0
2012 Sept 21-Southern Tier Flood Relief	24	22	0	2
2014 Weekend of Service in Rochester	10	10	0	0
2015 Mar 15-21 Stony Point, NY	5	5	0	0
2015 Feb 20-22-Weekend of Service in Rochester	7	7	0	0
2016 Feb 19-21 Weekend of Service in Rochester	8	8	0	0
2017 Feb 24-26 Weekend of Service in Rochester	11	11	0	0
2017 Mar 12-18 Detroit	7	6	0	1
8 Trips	92	89	0	3

### Summary of All Livingston Cares Trips January, 2006 - May, 2019

	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Community Members</b>	<b>Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni</b>
TOTAL: 88 Trips	1,489	1,188	149	152

# Livingston CARES Financial Information

(Since Inception)

Description - Program/Project	Contributions/Income	Expenditures
Service Trips	\$571,050	\$634,722
Trip Scholarships	\$35,314	\$31,695
Nicaragua Project	\$101,826	\$99,373
Respite Program	\$33,088	\$20,987
Hurricane Sandy Fund	\$13,091	\$11,285
Haiti Relief Fund	\$11,803	\$11,803
Ghana Project	\$7,484	\$7,484
Athletic Department Flow-Through	\$6,162	\$5,951
MLK Day of Service	\$5,305	\$4,515
Father Gordinier Special Fund	\$5,000	\$1,000
Geneseo Groveland Food Pantry	\$2,500	\$125
HEROS Project	\$1,130	\$1,057
Italy Earthquake Fund	\$628	\$623
General Hurricane Fund	\$3,288	\$500
General Disaster Relief Fund	\$1,217	\$1,044
Japan Relief Fund Donations	\$682	\$1,000
Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund	\$1,962	\$2,000
Unrestricted Contributions	\$66,220	N/A
Government Grants - Hurricane Katrina	\$20,000	\$20,000
Fundraising	\$51,846	\$4,064
Membership	\$1,265	\$2,575
Interest Income	\$957	N/A
Management & General Expense	N/A	\$12,861
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$941,818</b>	<b>\$874,664</b>

## Volunteer Contributions in Dollar Amounts

<b>Volunteer Contributions</b>	<b>Calculation</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Service Trip Volunteers	1,489 trip fees (\$200-\$600)	\$571,050.00
Donated Volunteer Hours	1,489 x 40 hours = 59,560 hours x \$25.43 hour	\$1,514,610.80
Total LC Volunteer Contributions in Dollars		\$2,085,660.80

# Kudos and Thanks

Livingston CARES wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their special contributions and assistance with the trips, projects, programs, and the Volunteer Thank You Dinner.

- Gabe Iturbides, Fatima Rodriguez Johnson, and Bryan Rivera for leading the 2019 March Trip to Puerto Rico
- Craig Bolesky for leading the May 2017, May 2018, and March 2019 service week trips to Biloxi
- Tom Wilson, Doug Hollinger, Les Buell, and Tom Matthews for leading the January 2019 Service Trip to the Florida Keys
- Holly Harvey and Phil Natoli for leading the March 2019 service trip to the Florida Keys
- Betsy Colon and Jo Kirk for leading the January 2019 service week trip to Puerto Rico
- Nick Palumbo for leading the January 2019 service trip to Houston
- Timothy Lowmaster for leading the March 2019 service week trip to Brooklyn
- Dave Parfitt for organizing and leading ten Give Kids the World service trips, including the 2019 trip to Orlando
- Karen Bailey for her continuing support and service as the Livingston CARES Treasurer
- Geneseo Philanthropic Chefs (Gary Towsley, Lynn Kennison, Glenn McClure, Paula McClure, Donna Kennison, Brenda Donohue, and Betsy Matthews) and George Hochbruckner and numerous other volunteers for catering the Gumbo-to-Go Dinners and the Volunteer Recognition Dinner
- Wegmans for supporting our volunteer and service programs
- Madeleine Brilling for her work this year as our financial assistance and bookkeeper for Livingston CARES
- Paula McClure for her work on all of our Livingston CARES programs and for organizing and promoting Gumbo-to-Go and other events
- Beth Standish for managing and processing all the required paperwork for our Livingston CARES trips
- Barb Battaglia for helping with our administrative work and for correspondence with donors and other volunteers
- The Geneseo Interfaith Center for hosting our dinners
- President Denise Battles and the College for support of the Livingston CARES programs
- Robert Bonfiglio, Vice President, Student and Campus Life for enabling Livingston CARES to do its work and for the support from the Division of Student and Campus Life

- Leonard Sancilio, Dean of Students and the Center for Community staff members for support and financial resources to help create and sustain Livingston CARES projects and programs
- Julie Matthews for her advice and preparation of our financial statements and tax documents
- Central Presbyterian Church of Geneseo for financial contributions, work-trip volunteers, and the use of the kitchen and social hall for fourteen Gumbo-to-Go Dinners
- Garth Freeman for serving as Livingston CARES Secretary, and for his numerous contributions, fresh ideas, and innovations in the programs and management of the organization
- Connie Rockco, Harrison County Supervisor, for her continued support of Livingston CARES
- Back Bay Mission staff for housing Livingston CARES volunteers and providing amazing and life changing opportunities to our students
- United Methodist Annual Conference organizations (UMCOR) in Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico for providing housing accommodations and supervision of our 2019 service weeks volunteers.
- SUNY Geneseo and Livingston County and the surrounding communities for supporting our mission
- Individuals and community organizations for donating funds to support Livingston CARES programs and affiliated public charities
- Austin Mann, Dilynn Livesey, Enid Brady, and Laura Huff for their volunteer work on multiple Livingston CARES service trips and for their service on the Board of Directors
- Thanks and best wishes to graduating seniors Marie Henning, Austin Mann and Dilynn Livesey
- A special thanks to Student Association for continued support of our volunteers with funding for grants (\$5,000.00 in 2019) to assist individual students as well as general support for our service trips
- All of our 1,489 volunteers, including 1,188 students, 149 community residents, and 152 faculty/staff/alumni and trip leaders who have participated in 88 Livingston CARES service trips

# Reflections

“I have appreciated my time here in Puerto Rico so much. Meeting such kind people everywhere we went made us want to work harder. Seeing the destruction past hurricanes up close puts things in perspective and hits you differently than just seeing it on the news. Because of this trip I know I want to incorporate service as a part of my future plans.” - 2019 January Puerto Rico Participant

“This has been an amazing experience and I have learned so much but more importantly I had so many amazing interactions with people I wouldn't have otherwise met. Our homeowner was amazing and the people volunteering at the church were all amazing and so sweet. I would not trade those interactions for anything.” - 2019 January Puerto Rico Participant

“Going to locations where disasters have occurred, even years later, puts the impact into great perspective. Being able to see the devastation firsthand and hear personal stories makes you grateful for all that you have. You learn a lot about yourself when helping others, especially those who are vulnerable.” - 2019 January Florida Participant

“The trip really helped open my eyes and see how the hurricanes have affected people. I knew people were struggling but meeting these people in real life and listening to their anecdotes further helped me to understand their situation. It has inspired me to do more community volunteer/outreach programs in the future.” - 2019 January Florida Participant

“This trip exposed me to both a new culture and population. Before this service trip, I had never had meaningful contact with homeless individuals.” May 2018 Biloxi Trip Participant

“Going on the Texas Livingston CARES trip opened my eyes to the impact that natural disasters have on local communities, even years after the disaster has happened. The homeowners that we met were so appreciative of our help and it was wonderful listening to their stories. It opened my eyes to the structural inequalities that occur in our country, especially in relation to disaster preparedness and emergency response. This trip truly changed my life and I look forward to continuing to be a servant leader locally and globally.” - 2019 January Texas Participant

“This trip consisted of a lot of firsts for me. I learned new skills, met new people and went new places all in one week! I’ll never forget my experience” - March 2019 Florida Keys Participant

“This was a great trip. I think we all came away with a feeling of accomplishment and inner pride. More than in my previous 4...maybe it’s 5... trips to Biloxi working with Back Bay Mission, I had a very strong feeling that we are truly in the right place with the right organization.” - March 2019 Biloxi Participant

“The best thing that I can say about working with a group of students towards a common goal is how much you can get done all while enjoying a different culture. The work we did was hard and it was hot, but we were excited to see what it was going to become. We also had very skilled laborers on the site that were, not only patient, but excited about everyone learning a skill. One person in particular kept saying “sin miedo” while encouraging many of us to swing a hammer, or use heavy machinery. “Sin miedo” means “without fear” in Spanish. How often are we asked to learn and not worry about doing it right? “You’ll get there.” Maybe when we are kids? I see it with my own. Maybe I enjoyed myself because I could just let go and accomplish amazing goals “sin miedo” and I don’t get to do that often. Last, but not least, the appreciation of the families, church members, and laborers from Puerto Rico was genuine and heartfelt. They were truly grateful for us being there and they let us know it. “ - March 2019 Puerto Rico Participant



THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT  
OF LIVINGSTON  
CARES!



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.