When Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29 — flattening homes and submerging a city — survivors fled for safety. As approximately 15,000 individuals sought shelter here in Memphis, many University of Tennessee Health Science Center faculty, staff and students answered their cries for help.

This special edition offers a snapshot of the service provided and, in a way, also says, “Thank You.”

Nursing Student Evacuates Clinic with Help from Health Science Center

By Megan Hefner
Communications Intern

For more than a week after Hurricane Katrina hit, the administration, faculty and staff of the College of Nursing worked frantically to account for students and their families who take online classes from home. All the while, one student was frantically trying to contact them.

Elizabeth Fuselier, who received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the UTHSC College of Nursing, recounts her experience as lead nurse practitioner at the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans. The clinic remained fully operational during and after the hurricane. “Ochsner was a city within a city,” she explained. In addition to caring for over 400 patients, the hospital housed nearly 700 staff and 520 family members and their pets.

After the storm, the hospital took in hundreds of rescued New Orleans’ citizens, patients from other hospitals and walk-in patients. The situation was later referred to as “emergency room mode” by those involved. The hospital had no power; water and diesel fuel for the hospital’s generators were limited.

Due to the lack of necessities and the rising waters of Lake Pontchartrain, the most critically ill patients at Ochsner were quickly airlifted to hospitals in Houston, Texas and Baton Rouge, La. Clinic Evacuated Cont’d on Page 3...

Pictured are pharmacy student volunteers who helped package medications for Hurricane Katrina victims. Many employees of the Health Science Center and its affiliates donated their time and talents to help others.

Entities within UTHSC have organized fund-raising efforts, offered free services and welcomed new staff. Others have donated supplies and joined local churches and organizations in relief efforts. So many people have done so much. This special edition of The Record could not possibly capture everything done by faculty, staff and students, but includes information that was submitted.

Read further in The Record to find out more about volunteers’ personal experiences here in Memphis and on the storm-ravaged coast.
UT Worker Runs Shelters
By Megan Hefner
Communications Intern

Selfless is the best way to describe UTHSC mechanical services employee, David Johnson.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina, David took three weeks leave to aid the Red Cross, for which he has volunteered for nearly forty years.

David was in charge of the Memphis Shelters of the Red Cross, which included shelters in Shelby, DeSoto and Tunka Counties.

With more than 1,000 evacuees filing into the shelters, David helped Red Cross volunteers serve more than 44,000 meals and nearly 85,000 snacks. Back at work now, David said he will be ready as always to help when there is a need.

Efforts Reflect Heart of UTHSC

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you enjoy this special edition of The Record, highlighting the various ways you have reached out to those displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Your demonstrations of kindness clearly reflect not only your commitment to healthcare, but also your compassion for others. Your efforts have included the provision of healthcare at emergency shelters, volunteer hours at a number of locations, monetary contributions, and donations of basic needs such as food, clothing, blood supplies and shelter.

Many heartfelt stories are shared in this edition, and I take great pride in the different ways our UT Health Science Center faculty, staff and students chose to be involved. I would like to especially thank those who served on the campus-wide Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Committee. These individuals and the areas they worked with include:

Kennard Brown – Housing Coordination
Dr. Mike Caudle – Knoxville and Chattanooga Relief Efforts
Dr. Wisdom Coleman – College of Dentistry
Dr. Frank Dibianca – College of Health Science Engineering
Dr. Theora Evans – College of Social Work
Dr. Karen Fox – Healthcare Volunteer Efforts
Dr. Bill Frey – College of Allied Health Sciences
Dr. Russ Gilpatrick – College of Dentistry
Dr. Dick Gourley – College of Pharmacy
Sue Harpole – Monetary Contributions
Dr. Donna Hathaway – College of Nursing
Dr. Hank Herrod – College of Medicine, Memphis
Dr. Rusty Johnson – Research
Elizabeth Maynard-Garrett – Communications
Dr. Dino Palazzolo – Data Collection and Transmission
Dr. Dick Peppler – College of Graduate Health Sciences
Dr. Stephanie Phelps – College of Pharmacy
Taylor Strickland – Information Technology
Pam Vaughn – Business and Finance
Dr. Pat Wall – SGAEC Liaison
Dr. Jeffrey Woodside – Clinical Issues and Transfer of Patients
Diane Wyatt – College of Allied Health Sciences

Again, thanks to each of you for your overwhelming response to this catastrophic event. I have truly been inspired by your compassion.

Sincerely,

William F. Owen, Jr., M.D.
Vice President for Health Affairs and
Chancellor, UT Health Science Center
Evacuees Find Home Away From Home

A number of displaced faculty and students have found a home away from home at the Health Science Center.

UTHSC is happy to welcome faculty members of both Tulane University and Louisiana State University School of Dentistry in New Orleans, as well as an LSU dental resident.

Salima Haque, MD, is a gastrointestinal and liver pathologist from Tulane University, who will be collaborating with Lillian Gaber, MBBCh, professor of pathology, during her stay.

Edward Ireland, DDS, is a long-time faculty member of the LSU School of Dentistry. Evacuated from their home in New Orleans, Dr. Ireland and his family came to Memphis and have enrolled their son in school here. Dr. Ireland has volunteered to teach at the dental school’s pre-clinical laboratories during the fall semester.

First-year dental resident, Joe Yale, also from LSU Dental School, has found a temporary home here. The Yale family hails from Baton Rouge, where Joe’s wife was a dental hygienist.

Answering a plea from the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry to help LSU students stay on track, UTHSC has allowed Joe to join twelve “pedo” residents while his residency education is temporarily being interrupted.

Also, another student affected by the disaster has transferred to the College of Social Work.

Community Service

Pharmacy Students Package Prescriptions

On Thursday, Sept. 1, students in the College of Pharmacy repackaged medications for the Church Health Center, which provided care for evacuees from Hurricane Katrina. In two hours, 67 students packaged 2,932 prescription bottles that contained 81,675 doses.

Dr. Richard Faris, Director of Pharmacy Operations at Methodist University Hospital, said, “I asked the students on Friday afternoon before a three-day weekend if they could help. I had hoped to get eight to 10 students to respond. Imagine my surprise when over 50 students showed up to assist.”

Pharmacy students also volunteered at the Dunn Shelter and were instrumental in acquiring prescriptions from a local pharmacy and delivering those medications to individuals who did not have transportation.

Clinic Evacuated from Page 1...

Soon hospitals were overwhelmed as well and could not take in all of Ochsner’s critically ill.

Running out of options, Elizabeth contacted her advisor and friend, Dr. Cheryl Stegbauer, by using one of Ochsner’s satellite phones. In spite of shaky communications, Elizabeth conveyed a desperate mayday — they had to get the last three critical patients out of New Orleans.

“Being unsuccessful was not in our vocabulary,” said Dr. Stegbauer as she reflected with Donna Hathaway, PhD, RN, dean of the College of Nursing, on their feelings of urgency while coordinating the patient transfers.

“It was an interesting moment when we finally became observers and could breathe a sigh of relief,” said Dean Hathaway referring to the moment Ochsner physicians, Methodist University Hospital physicians and the Shelby County Emergency Management Agency took control. Thanks to the help of these entities along with UT’s own Jeff Woodside and the UT Disaster Relief Committee, the three patients arrived at Methodist University Hospital on Friday, Sept. 2, and were immediately admitted to the ICU.

Elizabeth is now in Houston, Texas trying to recover from the physical and mental exhaustion of the ordeal. She credits the administration of the Ochsner Clinic for their preparedness and the UTHSC College of Nursing for their quick response in saving lives under such extraordinary circumstances.

Edgar Ned Turner, DDS, an associate professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, has been deployed to Louisiana by FEMA and the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT), who help in mass fatality incidents for the National Disaster Medical System.

Dr. Turner will help identify hurricane victims for two to four weeks.
Volunteering for Victims of Hurricane Katrina

Vickie Baselski, PhD, in pathology, donated through her church [St. Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral], which put forth a herculean effort to turn a roughshod “youth house” into a comfortable, habitable housing alternative for several families seeking asylum with the Episcopal church. (St. Mary’s is also known as the “Medical Center Cathedral” due to its proximity to UTHSC and ministries to its affiliated medical facilities.)

After hearing an interview on National Public Radio about the number of evacuees staying at the Red Roof Inn on Union Avenue, Faith Barcroft, in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was moved to action.

Faith gathered her friends to go to the dollar store where they bought coloring books, crayons and puzzles for the children and some books for adults. “They were so appreciative, and it was just a small thing for us to do,” Faith said of delivering the items to the inn.

On Sept. 6, Cassandra Stewart, accounting supervisor in the Department of Molecular Sciences, donated new and old school uniforms and shoes to Peabody Elementary. She also donated new and old clothes and shoes to the Salvation Army.

Having lived in Baton Rouge, La. for 14 years, Mary Finn, director of administration, and her family are familiar with hurricanes. She remembers times that her husband swam down the street to help neighbors as water flowed through the brick walls into their upstairs apartment.

To assist victims in Memphis, Mary’s family purchased bags of towels, personal items, diapers, wipes and clothing, which were distributed through her church. They also cooked Louisiana red beans and rice for 25 evacuees.

Ordeathia Bogard, assistant to the chair in the Department of Pathology, and her sons, Jeremee and Cameron, have contributed through their school.

During what was designated as “Hurricane Katrina Relief Week” at the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering, they gave a different designated item each day, such as non-perishable food, monetary donations, school supplies and personal hygiene items. The week was highlighted with a car wash.

After making phone calls to find out where help was needed, Patricia Stapinski, senior medical records clerk, and Rhonda Morrow, senior admitting clerk, at the UT Family Practice-Tipton, were told to go to a fire station in Covington, Tenn.

From Aug. 31 through Sept. 2, Patricia and Rhonda volunteered there, hanging up clothes and helping evacuees find the items they needed. Patricia also was assigned the task of finding available housing in Covington for displaced residents, and even offered her home to those who needed shelter.

Rhonda said, “I am truly glad that I could donate my time to help in this tragedy that has been inflicted upon the citizens of Louisiana and Mississippi.”

Other staff members from the UT Family Medicine Office in Covington (better known as the Tipton office), who contributed to relief efforts include: Dr. Nancy Moultie-Rockstroh, Dr. Angela Potter, Dr. Stephen Foster, Cammie Antrican, Sara Byrd, Sandy Martinez, Rhonda Morrow, Beverly Perry, Patricia Stapinski, Tamara Stingley, Shelia Thompson, Martha Vaughn and Rosalind Finton, RN.

Barbara Frederick, MPA, business manager in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, contributed about 20 hours toward a different sort of fund-raising effort.

She sings with the Memphis Symphonic Chorus. The Chorus and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra presented a benefit concert on Saturday, Oct. 2, of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony (“Ode to Joy”) to raise funds for the the Gulf Coast Orchestral Relief Fund and the Memphis Food Bank. The concert included displaced musicians from New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

Ernestine Small, EdD, in the College of Nursing, is continuing to help with relief efforts as she chairs her church-based team. She will continue to give about six hours a week to this group for the next six months. In addition to giving a monetary donation for a family’s living expenses, she has volunteered with the American Red Cross.

Jo Lariviere, business assistant in the Department of Surgery, helped the Cub Scout Pack at her church, Getwell Road United Methodist Church, collect and pack “flood buckets” and “health kits.” Cleaning items filled the flood buckets, while basic necessities were packed into the health kits. A number of UTHSC employees donated items to this effort.

Susan Jacob, PhD, in the College of Nursing, made a monetary donation to the American Red Cross, took supplies to a FEMA truck sponsored by her church, delivered meals to the Collierville Caring Connection and signed up to keep evacuees in her home.

One anonymous giver, wrote “for those in the South helping, is a way of life.” This person has additional family members staying at his home and has made a donation to the Salvation Army.

Catherine M. Crill, PharmD, BCPS, BCNSP, assistant professor of pharmacy and pediatrics, donated supplies and served meals at the American Red Cross Central Avenue Shelter. She also volunteered pharmacy services at the Dunn Elementary site.
Rue and Lester Van Middlesworth, MD, PhD, both in the Department of Physiology, helped supply food to shelters in Memphis and made a monetary donation to the American Red Cross.

Carolyn Graff, PhD, RN, assistant professor, College of Nursing, donated clothing to the Salvation Army and volunteered for the Red Cross; but much of her last few post-Katrina weeks were spent just listening. One of her advisees, a doctoral student living in Mobile, Ala., tried to keep up her coursework without electricity. “Sometimes I just listened to her frustration as she described the damage surrounding her.” Another prospective master’s degree student told of being called in to Fort Chafee to provide healthcare to evacuees who were being dropped off of buses coming in from New Orleans. He said he felt overwhelmed as 400 to 500 people would get off the buses and simply stand in line waiting for care. Graff reports that “he talked and talked and talked. I think that’s what he needed most, for someone to listen.”

Forensic Nursing Students, Instructor Take Part in Disaster Response

A number of students and an instructor in the forensic nursing option of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program assisted with relief efforts. Although these individuals are from various regions, their combined efforts helped to alleviate the suffering of those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Joyce Williams, MS, RN
Home: Rockville, Md.
First-Year DNP Program
Joyce is a research analyst in forensic wounds/lethality with the Department of Defense. In September, she was notified that the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) of which she is a member would be activated to the New Orleans area.

The Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORTs) are multidisciplinary groups responsible for victim identification and mortuary services in the event of a mass disaster. During the two weeks she was in Louisiana, Joyce was responsible for ensuring the complete set-up of a morgue, training volunteers to interact with families of missing and deceased persons and contacting families to obtain pertinent information on the missing/deceased.

Debra St. Germaine
Second-Year DNP Forensic Student
Debbie is an assistant professor with the College of Nursing at LSU in New Orleans. She and her family evacuated to Baton Rouge before the hurricane, but afterwards returned. Debbie worked to assist first responders in critical incident stress debriefment despite the fact her own home was nearly destroyed in the storm. She has taken residence with her two young children in Champaigne, Ill. Her husband, who is a firefighter, has returned to New Orleans to assist with relief efforts. Debbie remains in the doctoral program via the web.

LaRae Huycke
Home: Oklahoma City, Okla.
First-Year DNP Forensic Student
LaRae is a faculty member with the College of Nursing, University of Oklahoma. Shortly after Hurricane Rita made landfall, she received word she would be part of a team to coordinate the transfer of 60 intensive care unit patients to her local facility. Her expertise in patient safety and prevention of medical error was utilized in preventing the loss of valuable information on the patients displaced by the hurricane.

Stacey Mitchell
Home: Houston, Texas
Second-Year DNP Forensic Student
Stacey is the senior nurse death investigator for the Harris County Medical Examiner’s Office.

Serving Houston and the surrounding area, it is one of the busiest medical examiner’s offices in the country. Following Hurricane Katrina, the office processed 53 victims whose deaths occurred in hospitals and nursing homes.

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Susan B. Patton
Home: Forrest City, Ark.
Susan is an assistant professor with the UTHSC College of Nursing and coordinator of the forensic nursing option of the DNP Program. In addition, she is a pediatric nurse practitioner and co-proprietor with her husband, Curt Patton, MD, of East Arkansas Children’s Clinic.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Dr’s. Patton opened a shelter at Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church where they cared for a number of families referred by the local dialysis unit in Forrest City.
Helping Hands Offer Medical Support to Disaster Centers

The Division of General Internal Medicine organized UT physician volunteers to provide medical assistance for the Dunn Elementary School Katrina Shelter and the Red Cross Disaster Relief Center on Central.

“For almost two weeks attending and resident physician volunteers from the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics provided day and night telephone coverage and back-up for nurses staffing the Dunn Shelter,” said Jim Baily, MD, associate professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine in the Department of Medicine.

Physicians worked with triage nurses in both locations to provide basic evaluation, counseling, assistance with refills of critical medications and referrals into primary and specialty care as needed.

“The Red Cross Disaster Relief Center on Central was the busiest,” remembers Dr. Baily.

“The first two to three days over seven ambulances were called to bring acutely ill individuals directly to an emergency room. Countless cases of dehydration, depression, out of control hypertension and diabetes, severe stress reactions and exhaustion were seen, and these people were rapidly cared for and triaged to appropriate providers for ongoing follow-up,” he concluded.

Physicians Who Provided Care Include:

Some of these individuals volunteered well over 10 hours of their time.
More than 10 UT attending physicians volunteered:
• Kathy Ryder, MD, Division of General Internal Medicine
• Burt Hayes, MD, Division of General Internal Medicine
• Catherine Womack, MD, Division of General Internal Medicine
• Brad Canada, MD, Division of Nephrology
• Julie Vannerson, MD, Division of General Internal Medicine
• Donna Przepiorka, MD, PhD, Division of Hematology and Oncology
• Laura Carbone, MD, Division of Rheumatology
• Jim Bailey, MD, Division of General Internal Medicine
• Beverly Williams-Cleaves, MD, Division of General Internal Medicine
• Ron Shorr, MD, Department of Preventive Medicine

The Hours Add Up

Residents and fellows volunteered their time to American Red Cross stations at Lamar and Central.
Residents:
• Beth Abraham, MD
• Rama Chandrashekaran, MD
• Tom Collins, MD
• Mariko Dewire, MD
• Leslie Doros, MD
• Sabrina Hutchins, MD
• Ann Lankford, MD
• Rudy Kink, MD
• Chrisi Lietzke, MD
• Kimberly Martin, MD
• Amber Mayfield, MD
• Amin Mehta, MD
• Rachel Mittleman, MD
• Tricia Moody, MD
• Kelly O’Carroll, MD
• Steve Pishko, MD
• Ashley Saucier, MD
• Rachael Smith-Klingbeil, MD
• Jeff Tarpey, MD
• Sherri Thomas, MD
• John Winton, MD
• Jeff Zsohar, MD
• Jennifer Zurawick, MD
• Angela Riley, MD

Fellows:
• Arif Showkat, MD
• Sonia Benn, MD

Pharmacy faculty, residents and students also volunteered at the Dunn Shelter for its first week of operation. These volunteers worked alongside nurses from the health department to establish a system for assessing the needs of evacuees.
Dentistry Cares for the Displaced

On Thursday, Sept. 1, an emergency patient was referred to the undergraduates oral surgery clinic at the College of Dentistry for extraction of a lower molar tooth.

The patient, a displaced resident of New Orleans, had come to Memphis in the wake of Katrina. The word that a Katrina evacuee was being treated quickly spread to the other clinics on the third floor of the College of Dentistry. Thanks to the Departments of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Periodontology and Orthodontics, the patient was not only quickly treated at no charge, but over $100 was collected and presented to the patient and her family as they left the clinic.

Denise Thornton MSN, RN, BC, a doctoral nursing student, volunteered at the Baptist Camp in Cordova. On Sept. 15, the camp was housing 150 Katrina victims who arrived without anything. As a registered nurse, Denise assessed their health needs and helped with referrals to local healthcare providers.

While volunteering, Denise discovered a family with a two-week-old baby who had only one bottle and powdered formula with no way to sterilize the bottle or water. She also became aware of two pregnant women who were due within a couple of months, and of many other health problems and needs at the camp. These families are being adopted by local Baptist church congregations.

Linda Nkechi Oniah, D-2, in the College of Dentistry, spearheaded an effort to raise funds for the American Red Cross. In just one hour on Sept. 2, Linda, along with her fellow D-2 and D-1 dental students raised over $200.

Waletha Wasson, DDS, in Restorative Dentistry, said the Student National Dental Association has planned a number of activities to benefit the Gulf Coast evacuees.

The UTHSC Student Government Association Executive Council (SGAEC) recently sponsored a blood drive, collecting 80 units and plans another one for October.

The SGAEC also sponsored a campus-wide drive for collecting food and other items, which was distributed based upon need to local churches and other organizations that are housing or caring for evacuees.

The College of Allied Health Sciences students organized softball games at the evacuee housing sites.

Each college initiated a fund-raising drive for a charitable organization which supports disaster victims.

The UT Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) chapter collected donations from pharmacy faculty and students for a national effort to assist Xavier University College of Pharmacy students.

According to Nikita Wilson, UT pharmacy student and SNPhA president, the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA) established a fund to assist fourth-year Xavier University College of Pharmacy students in New Orleans. This fund-raising effort is supported by the student chapters.

The 125 students due to graduate next year are in the most urgent need and are being sent to schools around the country so they can complete their final year. All funds collected from this initiative will go to the Xavier University College of Pharmacy.
Cathie Harris, a Jackson - UT Family Practice Clinic Employee writes...

I live in Milan, Tenn., which is only a few miles from the Army Barracks in Lavinia, where we have received two waves of Katrina victims. Because I have volunteered for many activities in my hometown, most folks there know that I love to help people.

On Sept. 4, I received a call saying that Lavinia would be getting up to 500 Katrina victims that day, and as a medical lab technician, my services would be needed.

Since this was a Sunday, I planned to go after church. When I arrived at church, I received another call asking if my church could provide enough sandwich “fixins” for 100 people and have it to Lavinia by 3 p.m.

When I opened the church doors at 2 p.m., I was overcome with emotion. There was so much food and other supplies that it took our entire suburban and a cargo van to haul it! I just started to cry. To think that these people were only told two hours ago that these items were needed and to see the overwhelming response was very touching.

When my husband and I took the supplies to Lavinia, we were recruited by the Red Cross to manage the supply building. We were there for three days, only going home for a shower and a few hours sleep. Approximately 250 Katrina victims were housed, provided meals and given clothing.

On Sept. 20 I received another call... asking me to be back at Lavinia at 9 p.m. because we had more victims coming in. These people were from Louisiana and Mississippi and were being moved from Texas because of another hurricane.

All of this has been a real eye-opening experience for me, and I have enjoyed doing anything I could to help. If you have the opportunity to work with the Red Cross or any other similar organization, do not pass up this opportunity. You will truly get more than you give.

Carol Thompson, PhD, ACNP, in the College of Nursing, recounts...

(Dr. Thompson worked at the Dunn Elementary Shelter conducting in-take evaluations on Labor Day; she volunteered through the UTHSC’s e-mail system.)

Like all of the volunteers, I just wanted to help in doing whatever I could.

The experience was intense emotionally: listening to the stories of the evacuees’ ordeals, listening to what their health needs were and the resources needed to meet those needs, whether that was a prescription refill, home oxygen (though they did not have a home), a shower chair, a glucose meter or medication adjustments, or need for immediate inpatient care.

The experience also just made my heart soar seeing the strength of the human spirit. A particularly memorable experience was playing race cars with a 4-year-old, while his mother was getting instructions on her new glucose meter. I sat on the floor playing with him and the clinician part of me was assessing his mental health, and just giving him some release for his stress. I promise you though, as a university professor I don’t usually sit on the floor, but it seemed the right thing to do that day.

David Nutting, PhD, Department of Physiology, shares...

On the first Saturday after the storm, members of the Three-Star Volunteer Fire Department (in Southeast Tipton County) were asked to collect money to help support victims of Katrina. We did it in the usual way for fire departments — we stood in the street and asked people to help “Fill the Boot.”

We stood in the middle of traffic lanes at a four-way stop on state Highway 14 (Austin Peay Highway) for four hours. I forgot to bring my sunscreen (which Dr. Rosenberg - Chief of Dermatology, will be unhappy to hear about), so I got a really “good” (or bad?) burn, but a lot of satisfaction. Part way through, I also got a surprise.

(The following is taken from an e-mail one of our officers sent to other firefighters in our department):

“Here is some good news, we raised $2,255 today in four hours. I would like to thank all who helped. I know all of you could not be there. But you did miss a few funny things that happened. Firefighter Nutting had a bee fly up his pants... At the time he was talking to a lady who stopped her car to donate, and we thought he had gotten run over the way he was screaming.”

Although I had been stung on my thigh, the most memorable thing about this collection was the generosity of those people who, at least by the appearance of their vehicles, were among the poorest who drove by. They also smiled and expressed distinct pleasure at being able to help, and often thanked us for allowing them to help.

This behavior was in stark contrast to two other groups: those who drove fancy cars and teenage boys. It was interesting to see that those who didn’t donate would not look at us in the eye. I believe they were ashamed.
Grant Scarborough, MD, shares...

(Dr. Scarborough is a MedPeds PGY-3 resident.)

On Sept. 1, I went down to Bay St. Louis with six members of my church for a Hurricane Katrina relief mission.

Bay St. Louis is where the eye of the hurricane came ashore. The devastation there was great; few pictures were shown in the media. Bay St. Louis had a forty foot wave surge which completely destroyed blocks and blocks of the city leaving no house standing.

Dr. Trey Eubanks, pediatric surgery faculty, was one of the members of our group. We spent four days handing out supplies and medicines. People had lost everything, and all they had left were the clothes on their back. We were able to provide them with short-term medicines that they had lost in the storm.

It was one of the greatest things I have ever done, but at the same time the saddest. My heart still breaks thinking that most people are still living outside of their homes in the heat, drinking warm water and eating canned tuna. Much work still needs to be done.

Volunteers Record Relief Efforts in Database

The following list is from the database posted on UTHSC’s website. According to those who entered information, volunteers gave more than 1,080 hours of their time, as well as $12,525 in monetary donations. There were also 39 anonymous donors, whose names were not listed. Donations include: Time:  ●, Money: $, Food: ▲, Clothes: ■, Personal Items: ◆, Blood: □, Other: ●

- Patricia Allen - ● $  
- Sarah Amos - ● $ ▲ ◆ ●  
- Elizabeth Beach - ● ▲  
- Kathryn Beard - ●  
- Zorina Bowen - ● $ ▲ ◆  
- Joan Brown - ●  
- Connie Burk - $  
- Geraldine Bussell - ●  
- Ann Cashon - ● $ ▲  
- Tyson Chappel - ●  
- Jody Cockroft - ▲ ■ ◆  
- Sharron Cole - ● ■  
- Bettye Court - ●  
- Christine Crawford - ● ◆  
- Mary Dahmer - ●  
- Ronald Davis - ● $ ■ ●  
- Regenia Dowell - ● $ ■  
- Mary Finney - $  
- Rosalind Finton - ●  
- Stephan Foster - ●  
- Barbara Frederick - ●  
- Elaine Freiden - $  
- Sharon Gooch - ● ■ ◆  
- Joyce Graff - $  
- Belinda Hardy - ●  
- Sue Harpole - $ ▲ ■  
- Cathie Harris - ● ▲ ■ ◆ ◆  
- Dianne Holmes - ●  
- Mae Jackson - ● $ ▲ ■ ◆ ◆  
- James Johnson - $  
- Komal Kohar - $  
- Joyce Lariviere - ■  
- Marian Levy - $  
- Eleanor Lewis - $  
- Belinda Loyd - ● $ ■ ◆ ●  
- Lu Lu - $, Debra Malina - $  
- Barbara McAdams - ● $ □  
- John Midtling - ● ■  
- Everleen Morrison - ● ●  
- Daniel Morse - ● ■  
- Lara Nichols - ● ▲ ◆  
- Linda Oniah - ● ▲ ▲  
- Kelly Peaks - $  
- Linda Pifer - ● $ ◆  
- Kathryn Pigg - $  
- Gerald Presbury - ● ●  
- James Pruett - ● $ ▲ ■  
- Sarah Rhoads - ● ■ ◆ ●  
- Kathryn Ryder - ● $  
- Charlotte Salvaggio - ● $ ▲ ■ ◆ ◆  
- Arif Showkat - ● $  
- Thomas Singarella - ● ■  
- Ernestine Small - ● $ ◆  
- Elizabeth Smith - ● $ ■ ◆ ◆  
- Erin Steib - ●  
- Cassandra Stewart - ■  
- Nelson Strother - ● $ ▲ ■  
- Lisa Tekell - ● $ ▲ ■ ◆ ◆  
- Yvonne Thomas-Harris - ● $ ▲ ■  
- Carol Thompson - ●  
- Rebecca Tuttle - $  
- Bonnie Vandergriff - $  
- James Walker - ● $  
- Mary Watson - ● $ ■ ◆ ◆  
- Elizabeth Webb - $  
- Brenda Willis - ● ◆  
- Joi Wilson - ▲ ■ ◆  
- Audrey Zucker-Levin - $ ▲ ■ ◆  

Maurice W. Lewis, DDS, assistant professor in the College of Dentistry, tells his experience...

During three of the four days that the Red Cross Center was working within the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, I had the opportunity to work as a volunteer along with my family.

It was an honor to be able to do this work which helped so many people. I was deeply moved by the plights of so many of these folks. Many were aware that their homes were gone, while some still had no way of knowing whether their home might have survived or not. Two of my students escorted friends and family to get help at the center.

My daughter, Stephanie, worked through a mountain of paperwork, while my wife, Amy, entered information from the paperwork into databases. My son, Sean, worked as a general gofer.

At one point, I walked among the evacuees with trays of snacks. I tried to keep up a flow of banter, hoping to help lighten the loads of suffering people.

I hope I was able to make a difference in people’s lives. They made a difference in mine.

The bulk of my work was simply being available to people, who most of all needed someone to listen to. I allowed myself to be a shoulder for several to cry upon. I know that I shall never forget this nor will I ever be the same.