

by Libby Enloe
Clarion Associate Editor

They saw the great and the ghastly. Ten Brevard College students now know there's more than just power in the nation's capitol. Take 10 BC students, two faculty advisors and send them to Washington D.C. What's the result? "BC to DC."

The College's Community Service Coordinator, Sybil Dodson, and Director of Public Information Jock Lauterer headed up the team sponsored by the BC Project Inside-Out. Their goal: to witness first-hand the problem of the homeless in Washington D.C. and try to do something about it.

"We can't fix it," said BC sophomore Rick Redmond, "but we can sure knock a dent in it!"

On the "BC to DC" work team were: Lin Redmond, sophomore, Flat Rock, N.C.; Burney Mack, freshman, Brevard, N.C.; Randal Watts, freshman, Monroe, N.C.; Rick Redmond, sophomore, Flat Rock, N.C.; Dale Wicker, freshman, Conover, N.C.; Steve Compton, sophomore, Campobello, S.C.; Thomas Smith, freshman, Greer, S.C.; Shannon Payne, freshman, Brevard, N.C.; John Messer, sophomore, Brevard, N.C.; and Libby Enloe, freshman, Hazelwood, N.C.

The work team spent their spring break working with and learning about the homeless situation in D.C. They visited several different service and mission organizations run by the Church of the Savior.

Whether it was helping inner city children with their homework at the House of the Good Shepherd, (one of the eight ministries organized by The Church of the Savior), or eating dinner and worshipping with homeless men at Christ House, (a recovery place for homeless men; also associated with The Church of the Savior.), the work team learned how churches and communities in the inner D.C. area are dealing with the problems of poverty and the homeless. "We can't just give money," said Thomas Smith, "It takes individual work with each person."

The group also worked at the Federal Shelter run by the Community

"That homeless person could just as easily have been one of us..."

-- Dale Wicker



BC students pose with D.C. children at an inner city after school program playground where the 10 students worked during spring break.

BC to DC

Not your typical Spring Break



The BC work crew shreds and cleans bushels of rotting spinach.

"Maybe the crack in the Liberty Bell does get a little bigger each time a homeless person dies..."

-- John Messer

for Creative Non-Violence which was founded by Mitch Snyder. This shelter houses over 1,300 people and is the largest shelter for the homeless in the world. It provides shelter, clothing, one meal (dinner), and medical care for its occupants.

Carol Fennelly, a full-time volunteer who has worked and lived at the Shelter for 13 years, said, "Our job is to put ourselves out of business. We're about changing the world around us." She said most of the occupants were male. Of the 130 or so females, "Most are mentally ill," she said. "When a woman becomes homeless, she is perceived as more vulnerable."

The work team helped prepare dinner for approximately 1,700 people. Working along side the BC students were full and part-time volunteers; 22 of whom were fasting in protest to the City Council's decision to cut \$ 19 million from the Emergency Shelter Budget.

Of the housing crisis in D.C., Fennelly said, "70 to 80 percent of the housing budget has been destroyed over the past 10 years. The housing department is mismanaged." She concluded, "We don't think cutting funds is the solution."

Before the group started their work in the kitchen, Fennelly reminded them, "Nothing is as it appears."

After working at the Shelter, they toured the offices of the Christian monthly magazine "Sojourners". They learned the history of the magazine and its role in speaking out on justice issues such as poverty and homelessness.

Following the tour of the magazine headquarters, the students visited Sojourner's Neighborhood House, (which is financially separate from the magazine.). They learned of its ministry of neighborhood worship, food distribution, and its work with children in the neighborhood. The Neighborhood House is funded by corporate and church sponsors.

The group not only saw the "rough" side of Washington, but they were also exposed to the political side. They were given a special tour of the

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