

BC students get involved in the aftermath of South Carolina flooding

By Courtney Sharp
Staff Writer

South Carolina still remains devastated by the effects of the mass flooding that occurred earlier this month. Thousands of residents remain without homes, especially in Columbia and Charleston, and the state has been working tirelessly to get back on its feet.

These floods were a result of the downpours of rain brought by Hurricane Joaquin. The state received as much as 26.88 inches of rainfall in just the first few days of the storms. Charleston and Columbia broke their record rainfall totals with 16.33 inches and 18.87 inches respectively.

Many residents have lost power, homes, cars and even loved ones to the subsequent floods. According to Huffington Post, 17 people have died due to drowning or traffic accidents and over 800 have sought refuge in the multitude of shelters throughout the state.

The Salvation Army has reached out and provided food, water and shelter to the flood victims. The American Red Cross of the Palmetto South Carolina Region continues to provide shelter to victims as well. The South Carolina Baptist Convention distributed food and child care units. It also provided chainsaw units to assist with the removal of the fallen trees that remain throughout the state.

Many students from BC call South Carolina home. Some did not see much harm from the floods. Others were not as fortunate. Over Fall break, freshman Hanna Welsh went to her hometown of Turbeville, SC, which is 87 miles from the coast. Fortunately, her family's house was unharmed by the floods. "We have never seen anything like this in our area before," Welsh said. "My grandparents haven't either, and we all have lived in this area all of our lives."

Alex Webster, the Arts & Life editor for the Clarion, also came to the aid of SC flood victims. She volunteered at the American Red Cross of Central South Carolina. Webster spent the majority of her time answering phone calls and providing aid to the flood victims. "The experience was so gratifying because even



A road crumbles as a result from the floodwaters in Columbia, SC.

though my house wasn't affected, so many peoples were," the South Carolina native said. "I was glad I could help in some way, even if it was just a short time."

Here at BC, Bill's Boiler House and King's Creek Bookstore are accepting donations for the flood victims. Students that purchase items such as cell phone chargers, socks, batteries, and power banks to send to the victims will receive a 25% discount on their purchase. Clothing donations are greatly accepted as well.

State officials deployed the aid of the National Guard, who have deployed 1880 personnel to offer assistance to the flood victims. Curfews were set for residents as well. Hundreds of schools and several universities such as the University of South Carolina cancelled their classes. The flooding even caused the South Carolina Gamecocks to move their football game against the Louisiana State Tigers to Baton Rouge.

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley told CNN News that the cost of recovery still remains unknown, but she believes the amount to be "disturbing". More than 70 miles of Interstate 95 in the state remained closed, with five to eight bridges still awaiting structural checks

Due to the floods throughout the state, South



One of the many houses underwater in Turbeville, SC due to the massive floods.

Carolina now faces a new threat. Dams are starting to crack and break. According to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, at least 11 dams have failed in South Carolina since the floods began. Overcreek Bridge dam, located in Forest Acres, failed and caused thousands of residents to evacuate their homes. The division is currently monitoring another 35 dams.