



Hugo's wrath hits home: this is what Noell Smith's house in Charlotte looked like on Sept. 23.



The flooded streets of Charleston, S.C., photographed by former Clarion senior reporter Brian Howell the day after Hugo struck.

Those angels in blue jeans . . .

Hugo relief work teams head east from Brevard College

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Everyone in some way or another heard of the tragedy caused by Hurricane Hugo. But 30 Brevard College students actually witnessed the devastation when they volunteered to aid those afflicted by the disastrous storm. At 6 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30, they headed east in three separate work teams to Hickory, Rock Hill and Charlotte.

According to Brevard College Community Service (Project Inside Out) Coordinator Sybil Dodson, groups worked regardless of the rainy weather, cleaning debris left by fallen trees. All week, Dodson had been signing up volunteers and making arrangements in those areas. They were joined by workers from faculty, staff, administration and maintenance.

It was part of a campus-wide relief effort that included a food drive for Hugo victims in Charleston. That collection campaign, which was started by Resident Director Sharon Waggy, also sent blankets and other needed items, via Rice's Furniture Co. trucks, or by College transportation, or by individual BC students going directly to Charleston, according to Dodson.

Dodson said the work trips provided a way for the many BC students from the areas afflicted to do something constructive and positive in the wake of the tragedy.

"And the thing that's so wonderful," said Dodson, "is that it started with one student — Leroy Herman." Herman, a Hickory sophomore, was originally taking a group of BC friends home for the weekend to go camping.

But after his hometown was hit by high winds, Herman said, "I started thinking, and we cancelled the camping trip and changed it instead to go to Hickory and clean up."

When Sybil Dodson heard of Herman's idea, she realized there was a need, and after making contacts with many friends of the College in the Charlotte area, including Trustees, she began organizing. "You know how it goes with a good idea," Dodson said with a smile.

The Rock Hill work trip was the idea of Resident Director Debbie Garrick who is from that area and knew first-hand of the needs.

One elderly Charlotte resident helped by the BC work team, Scott Francis, said, "I can't believe these children would come out in weather like this. That shows true human dedication."

According to Dodson, who says she was told by emergency management people that this sort of direct one-on-one, people-to-people help is what was needed the most.

"They told me that if we knew of a specific need, it's better to just go in and do it," she said. Dodson is the director of Project Inside-Out, Brevard College's new service component.

Beginning with the incoming class of 1990, Brevard College will be requiring an estimated 30 hours of service for graduation. Dodson said Hurricane Hugo wreaked so much havoc in the Carolinas that Project Inside-Out will have its hands full for at least two years. Already she's planning longer work trips during annual vacations in the school year.

Brevard College President Billy Greer concluded, "We have known since the beginning of the fall semester that we have not only the largest student body we've ever had — but that we have a quality and caring group of young adults on our campus. This response on their part to people in need demonstrates in a real way the depth of character of this student body — and all of us are grateful."

The workers at the Hickory site included students Leroy Herman, Joanie Gregory, Thomas Schiffers, Russ Washburn, Andy Sullivan, Mitch Ormond, Bill Nimocks, Mark Longworth, Matt Hege, James Toney, Jennifer VanNess, Erin Keller, Jeff Lear and Joe Crowley.



BC's Hugo relief food drive heads east, packed up by RD's Sybil Dodson, Debbie Garrick and Sharon Waggy.

The Rock Hill work crew included students Danny Miller and Mark McCarthy along with RD Debbie Garrick and maintenance worker Jerry Marshall.

The Charlotte work team included students Marcia Ashworth, Eric Keaton, Bruce Sons, Karen Carter, Jose Lasa, Kimberly Byerly, Mark Cornick and Joe Brutzman along with maintenance workers Mark Walker and Randy Marshall. They were joined by Director of Development Don Scarborough and his wife, Miki, and executive secretary Jacolyn Campbell and her husband, Roger, as well as the College's Community Service Coordinator, Sybil Dodson, who organized the work trip.

Leroy Herman was impressed that his friends worked on in spite of the nasty weather. "There wasn't a dry pair of shoes in the bunch." 14 went. Slept in a barn. A place we could feel comfortable in. We worked clearing trees out of the swimming pool, around the pasture, removing hay from half the barn. The roof had been damaged and had to remove hay to prevent the barn from rotting."

"Thanks to ARA for the donation of enough food for the whole weekend."

And of his friends: "They really surprised me and did the work and were cheerful in spite of the rainy conditions; my thanks goes out to them."

In a letter of thanks, BC Trustee Bob Dalton of Charlotte wrote President Greer, "I have been searching around trying to find how best to describe those angels in blue jeans that you sent down here last Saturday to help the Daltons get uncovered from Hugo's mess, so I'm going to use the word 'awesome' to say that's the kind of impression this wonderful team made on me."

Another Charlotte "Friend of Brevard College" was so grateful for the work team that he sent \$10,000 for the establishment of a student volunteer scholarship fund.