

Hurricane Floyd relief efforts still active

BY MICHELLE CRABTREE

Have you ever seen the rain fall so hard that it wipes out an entire town? Have you ever heard the wind blow so hard that it shatters the window and leaves you in fear? Have you ever had to give up everything you have ever worked for in your entire life for your own protection? This is the result of Hurricane Floyd.

This monstrous threat rolled in leaving behind 20 inches of rain, turning large areas of Eastern North Carolina into a disaster and killing at least 47 people. About 2,100 people remained in shelters. Officials said that Hurricane Floyd caused the largest known evacuation in U.S. history. More than 2.6 million people from Florida to North Carolina left Floyd, on planned Hurricane routes to find safety in high schools, churches and other shelters, including right here at Brevard College.

On Sept. 15, Brevard College students, faculty and staff participated in an "immediate response" to hurri-

support them, and give them hope." The opportunity for victims to stay at Brevard College allowed time for hotels to open and families to recuperate.

"Anyone involved in a tragedy like this should not give up hope, and the goodness of other people will soon come out," said John Minor.

There are plenty of ways to show your kindness. Boxes are set up in Coltrane where items are being collected for Floyd victims. Such items include medical supplies, baby supplies, canned foods and water. Later, the campus hopes to collect winter clothes and toys to add to this effort.

Efforts remain both on campus as well as off campus. Brevard College gave Patrick and Amber Scott an opportunity that has truly changed their lives. The Scotts had the opportunity to represent the college at a missions outreach meeting through First United Methodist church in Brevard. During this meeting, contact was made with the Pastor of St. Paul Ame Zion church in Tarboro.

The pastor and members of the church say their main goal is to repair and rebuild their church

that had been destroyed in the hurricane. After only three meetings as a missions outreach group, volunteers were off to Tarboro, North Carolina. The congregation of this church consists of thirty people, mostly older adults. This group of volunteers spent the weekend of October 16 removing the piano, organ, pews, carpet and the sub floor. The church members expressed over and over again that they could never rebuild their church without the help of the volunteers.

Volunteers of Brevard College

We were unable to put the devastation we witnessed into words.

— The Scotts

cane Floyd victims; this was lead by John Minor. Dr. Robert Dye, Wilderness Leadership professor, along with Minor and several students, traveled to the welcome center where approximately one thousand tired, hungry, frustrated victims sat in the middle of chaos and confusion. Ten families from this shelter arrived at Brevard College where a warm bed and food awaited them.

Linda Helms, director of the Center for Service Learning, said, "We are going to care for the victims,



Courtesy of Dave Saville/FEMA

A woman gets free waters at a disaster distribution center operated by a church affiliated center in Tarboro, NC. Many church groups and charities have set up disaster distribution centers to help the victims of Hurricane Floyd.

have come together in the time of need hoping to ease some of Tarbor's loss. "It is hard to come back to Western North Carolina and explain what we saw. It is frustrating because we are unable to put the devastation we witnessed into words," said the Scotts. Another trip will be taken on the weekend of Nov. 13, when volunteers will help rebuild the church.

While traveling is being done, items are being collected and care packages are being made, future plans are being discussed. Brevard College staff has discussed hosting a "summer camp" for children from the disaster area. During this healing process, kids will have the opportunity to engage in exciting activities, make new friends and explore the unique outdoors.

The victims of Hurricane Floyd have lost everything. Everything

from animals, to their jobs, clothes, memories, money, homes, and even loved ones have been lost. Getting back into the normal routine of everyday life may be hard. This process may take weeks, months or even years of hard work and patience.

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other private institutions.

In its official statement, administration contrasted the "below average" rise with the "increasing academic quality and offerings," and "improving quality of life" for students as "unusual." "We have worked diligently to keep our costs to the students as low as possible," stated the memo.

Students still have mixed feelings about the rise in tuition, despite the memo and comparisons. When asked about the increase, Jonathan Kirk said, "I think Brevard is trying

to be a traditional four year institution by raising tuition. Until Brevard starts treating their faculty and students as respected individuals than there not going to achieve that of superior institution."

Many students are unaware of the constant increase every year in tuition, or they just don't care about inflation.

"I think we have to pay enough already and by raising the tuition it's going to turn students away from this College," said Diana Diehl, a freshman.

Efforts to improve campus life and attract more students are also rising with tuition. Phase II of the Village is now in the works and dorm renovation is scheduled. Brevard is constantly increasing academic opportunity by creating new degrees; two shall be introduced next year.

In addition, the faculty of Brevard is working on plans to offer Masters degrees in wilderness leadership, experiential education and sacred music.