

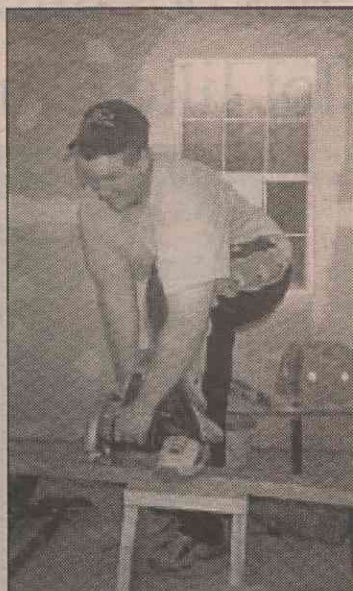
**Volunteer**

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Donnie Wickline, the student coordinator of Service Learning at Elon, says the university is very committed to giving back to the community. Students have the opportunity to live in a service-learning community, third floor Chandler, where they participate in activities and volunteer together. The school also promotes service by offering experiential learning credit, a requirement for graduation, through volunteering. Students who volunteer 40 hours at school-approved functions can use it to fill the requirement.

Wickline says the main reason students volunteer is because of the satisfaction they get from helping others. "Service and volunteering is what makes me happy," he said. "I have led an incredibly fortunate life, and unless I am able to give back and help those less fortunate, I don't feel my life will be fulfilled."

It is for reasons like this that many students sacrifice weekend mornings to volunteer. Habitat for Hu-



*Photo courtesy of EV!*

Jeff Daly uses a power saw to cut boards while building a house on a service trip to Charleston, S.C. in Spring 2000.

says volunteers from Elon and Burlington allow nonprofit organizations to survive. With a yearly membership ranging from 400 to 450 children, the organization often finds itself hard-pressed to keep

working at the Boys & Girls club is a rewarding experience because of the response she gets from the children. "When you see the expressions on the faces you are helping, you know that in your own small way, you are making a difference to someone else," she said.

S.H.A.R.E. allows animal lovers to give back to the community through volunteering at Alamance and Guilford County animal shelters. Jessica Siiro, who volunteers for this reason, says it is a fun and rewarding experience because she can spend time with the animals and help the shelters stay open.

"All in all, it's just a lot of fun," she said. "Animals have an amazing capacity to love all people. I think volunteering with animals is one of the most rewarding thing a person can do."

Service learning coordinates various service trips along to east coast for each of the major breaks during the school year - fall, winter and spring. This year, Wickline says they want to coordinate a few weekend trips during the spring semes-



*Photo courtesy of EV!*

Brandon Eland, Brian O'Shea, Jon Williams, Michelle LaSalle, Danielle Weir, Kelly Koppenhafer, Myra St. Clair, Brian Sylvester and Megg Fortin were among the students participating in last year's Winter Term class, Call to Service, which spent a week volunteering at a D.C. kitchen.

studying various social and economic issues and traveling locally to work at churches. During the final week of the term, the class travels to Washington, D.C., and volunteers at local nonprofit organizations. The focus of the 2002 class, led by professor Monica Parson, will be on homeless shelters and urban justice.

In all these organizations and activities, and the many others around the county, this is the main goal - helping others in their time of need. In times of peace or times of crisis, that need will always be there.

Perhaps Wickline captures the essence of volunteering the best. "People don't realize how much of a difference they can make in someone else's life."

“ There's nothing better than watching a 4-year-old girl pull her mom by the hand to see the unfinished room that will eventually be hers. ”

manity, which has built more than 100,000 homes nation wide since 1976 and boasts impressive memberships at Elon and in the surrounding community, often requires people to spend Saturday mornings and afternoons laying foundations, laying roof shingles, carpeting and taking care of all details necessary to build a house. But the end result - seeing the finished product and meeting the family who will soon live there - is more than worth it to the volunteers.

Mandie Danielski, a senior and Publicity Chair for Habitat, says building houses is one of the most rewarding experiences she's had at college because the organization gives homes to families previously living in substandard housing.

"There's nothing better than watching a 4-year-old girl pull her mom by the hand to see the unfinished room that will eventually be hers," she said. "Habitat has made me realize everything I take for granted, like hot water, heat and a solid roof over my head."

Sheri Henderson, the executive director for the Boys & Girls Club,

up. The volunteers, mainly students from Elon University, make a tremendous difference.

"The volunteers give our children an opportunity to have different types of adults come into the program," Henderson said. "Most of all, they can bring in a new perspective, an expertise to share with the children."

Elon junior Andi Petrini says



*Photo courtesy of EV!*

As a member of Habitat for Humanity, senior Joe Azzato helps build a house for the Rouse family during Family Weekend Sept. 29.

ter to closer locations. Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Floyd in September 1999, the group traveled to eastern North Carolina over fall break to help with the cleanup. Trips have gone as far away as Miami.

Every Winter Term, students interested in service can participate in class titled, "Call to Service." Students spend two weeks at Elon,

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