

Meredith students rally together, help victims of attack with button campaign

□ The goal is one million dollars over the next few weeks. That means selling too many buttons to count.

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Editor in Chief

There is a button factory in Meghan Griffith's dorm room.

Over the past week the Meredith sophomore has been recruiting friends to assemble red, white and blue felt star buttons on the floor of her room.

Griffith, launched the button campaign, called Wings of Hope, this week in response to the growing need of relief efforts for victims of last Tuesday's terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. and to encourage unity among Meredith community members.

Last week Griffith got a call from her friend Christy Sanderson, a graduate of Meredith who works with Griffith at Operation Toy Box, a local non-profit organization that provides gifts for children during the Christmas season.

"Meghan, what is Meredith College doing?" asked Sanderson.

Griffith took that question to a meeting last Thursday night with the Meredith College Service Council, an organization comprised of class presidents and service representatives where the groups discussed

how the Meredith community could help with relief efforts.

From her experience working for a non-profit, Griffith thought the most significant help the campus could give was through monetary donations.

Thus, the button factory opened for business.

Griffith, members of the Service Council and other students began assembling the buttons, and by Tuesday, Sept. 18, they had made close to 300.

Yet they are determined to keep going. Their goal is high--a million dollars worth of buttons over the next few weeks.

Those are a lot of buttons considering each one only costs a dollar.

However, the price is more of a formality than an unbendable rule. Members of the

Meredith community can donate larger sums.

American Marymount

Red Cross and Manhattan College in New York, a women's college whose student body was significantly affected by last week's events considering it draws the majority of its students locally.

Griffith and other students have been selling the buttons in Belk Dining Hall during meals.

However, donation jars are in residence hall parlors. Residence directors of each dorm also have envelopes on their doors in which students can place money. Campus Security will be selling the buttons at the guard house for \$10 to visitors to campus.

However, Griffith and others selling

the buttons want those who wear them to think about the importance of unity.

"We have to work together,"

she said. "This is going to affect people's lives forever."

Yet there are still a lot of buttons to make and sell.

That is why Griffith is recruiting as many people as she can to help.

She has even got the President's Office in on it, making the buttons "on their lunch-break," according to Griffith.

But those are not the only groups that Griffith is calling on to help. Walmart has donated \$1,000 to the campaign. Service organizations at North Carolina State University and Peace College are joining. The Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts want to help.

Now that's a lot of people in one dorm room--but a million dollars is not looking so far off now.

If you are interested in joining the button campaign, contact Griffith at (919) 760-2482 or email at <on_wings_of_hope@hotmail.com>.



Sophomore Meghan Griffith sells the felt star buttons in the Belk Dining Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 18. Proceeds from the next few weeks sale will go to the American Red Cross and Marymount

Manhattan College

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA HOLDER

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