

# ESR, WSMX collect items for eastern part of state

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

More than a month after Hurricane Floyd wreaked havoc on the eastern part of the state, the effort to help those who were caught in the eye of the storm continues.

Experiment in Self-Reliance, a community action agency that works to make the homeless and working poor self-sufficient, and WSMX 1500 AM, a local gospel radio station, have teamed together to collect essential supplies for Floyd victims.

A portion of the supplies will go to community action agencies in Eastern North Carolina, many of which have been inundated with new cases since Floyd hit.

"The response has just been overwhelming," said Twana Wellman, ESR executive director as she stood among stacks of boxes. The boxes contain everything from clothes to school supplies for children. Bottled water, diapers and trash bags have also come in steadily over the last few weeks.

Several unique items have been donated as well, such as several colorful throw pillows with positive messages stitched across them. One pillow reads: "Friends are flowers that never fade."

Wellman said she doesn't want the effort to help those affected by Floyd to fade either. She says that oftentimes, as time goes on, people forget about causes they once rallied with a passion. People in Eastern North Carolina still need us, Wellman said.

"People still have needs there," she said.

The ESR campaign began about four weeks ago, after Wellman learned that ESR-like agencies in that part of the state had suffered substantial set-

backs. Nearly 13 agencies have been affected by the devastation Floyd left, Wellman said.

The relief effort began internally; boxes were set up around the office so that employees could contribute supplies. The agency also found allies among the corporate ranks. Companies like Great Clips for Hair, Sara Lee and the Brown Douglas Recreation Center donated much needed supplies.

When Wellman decided to make the effort a community-wide one, she contacted Joe Watson, owner of WSMX 1500 AM. She told Watson what she wanted to do and he immediately told her to come to the station and cut a public-service announcement about the relief drive.

"I said yes right away...It was a no brainer," Watson said.

Wellman's PSAs ran for the past two weeks on the station, often four times a day. The spots were also broadcast on WSNC 90.5 FM, Winston-Salem State University's station, which Watson manages.

Again, Wellman said, the response was overwhelming. Community groups and civic organizations began to bring in box-loads of supplies. As word of the effort got around, donations intensified, Wellman said.

Watson saw the results of the campaign for the first time Tuesday afternoon.

"I'm pleased that the community responded... (This is) a caring community," Watson said as he looked down at the boxes.

The effort has been so successful that ESR has struggled to find room for the supplies. Currently they are being stuffed into closets and supply rooms throughout the building.

The supplies will be transported by the agency to the Department of Health and Human Services in Raleigh in



Photo by T. Kevin Walker  
Twana Wellman, left, and Joe Watson sort through items collected for flood relief in Eastern North Carolina. The two spearheaded a two-week collection drive.

early November. DHHS has agreed to redistribute the items to various community action agencies in cities and towns throughout Eastern North Carolina.

Wellman says it will more than likely take ESR several trips to get everything to Raleigh.

"The plan was just to take it on one of our vans, but we have more than a van full now," she

demned. He expected as much when he developed the display and hopes it will generate more discussion.

"It's not something we need to be politically correct about," Hadley said. "We love to talk about the Civil War in general terms like the whole war was about ending slavery. The war was a whole lot more complex than that."

## Confederates

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instead.

Major historical sites including the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, Va., the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va., and Gettysburg National Military Park have no exhibits on black Confederate sol-

diers and no plans to add such displays.

"It would be something that we would probably address if there was evidence there were substantial numbers," Gettysburg historian Scott Hartwig said. "There have been a lot of people who have written about it recently and the evidence has been very flimsy."

Jordan, who is black, believes

Civil War museums should be sensitive to the feelings of the black community.

"My attitude about blacks who were loyal to the Confederacy is I don't condemn them nor do I praise them," he said. "My goal is to explain them."

Hadley, who is white, said reaction to his Chattanooga exhibit ranges from praise to virulent con-

## Trial

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Berry's tattoos, including a playboy bunny and a four-leaf clover, are less threatening and there are no racist creeds to show the jury. Gray said he is unconcerned.

"There will be less evidence on motive in this case. The crime scene facts may be a notch or two

(more concrete) on this one," Gray said. "It's actually easier to try this case. This guy admits he's at the crime scene."

There is DNA evidence showing Byrd's blood was on Berry's shoes, Gray said. Not only that, it was Berry's truck that dragged Byrd to his death, and the chain hooked to Byrd's ankles and the bumper was Berry's, he said.

Berry, in an interview with "60 Minutes II," said he was the one

driving when he, King and Brewer stopped to pick up Byrd, who was staggering home drunk from a party. He said he was unable to stop King and Brewer as they beat Byrd.

Berry's attorney, Joseph C. "Lum" Hawthorn, has said that is the story Berry has told from the beginning.

Gray said Berry's story has changed several times since he first began cooperating with investiga-

tors after his arrest. Berry gave several statements, none of which has ever been made public, and Gray said they differ from the story he told on television. He declined to elaborate.

If convicted of capital murder, Berry will either be sentenced to death or given 40 years in prison without chance of parole. Berry turned down an earlier plea bargain for a life sentence, Hawthorn has said.

## CompUSA

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going to pull the plug" last week if further comments were made about CompUSA, Joyner said Tuesday.

Joyner said the network expressed concern that the company might sue, but Halpin said the company never threatened a lawsuit.

Network officials denied they were attempting to censor the

show but wanted to make sure that statements on the air concerning the CompUSA controversy were accurate.

"We did ask Tom to hold off discussing CompUSA for one day," Julie Hoover, a network

spokeswoman in New York, said.

Network president Lyn Andrews earlier issued a statement saying, "The issue is an important one. There is no dispute between us and Tom on that. It is also important, however, to be certain any statements are accurate and in

## Halloween

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will be played, refreshments served and candy will be given away. The church is at 1301 E. Belew Street. For more information call the church at 724-5842. You are invited to attend.

Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little tricky, according to the Winston-Salem Police Department and Exchange/Stop Child Abuse Now. Concerns about children's safety - whether they are out in the neighborhood or back home with bags of goodies - can darken the day more quickly than a black cat.

But not to worry! To make Halloween a treat for all, follow these safety tips:

### Costumes

- Costumes should be short enough so that children won't trip and fall. Long skirts and pants can cause a child to fall.
- Do not ride a bicycle. Costumes could get hung up in it.
- For greater visibility during dusk and darkness, decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape that will glow in the beam of a car's headlights. Bags or sacks also should be light colored or decorated with reflective tape. Reflective tape is usually available in hardware, bicycle and sporting goods stores.

where the outside lights are on. Parents should accompany young children.

- Try to get your kids to trick-or-treat while it's still light out. If it's dark, make sure someone has a flashlight and pick well-lighted streets.
- Make sure kids know not to enter strange houses or strangers' cars.
- Make sure your child knows his or her phone number and address. Children should carry a couple of quarters for emergency phone calls or if they need to reach you.
- Trick-or-treaters should always say, "Thank you."
- Be cautious of animals and strangers.

### Back home

- Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. One way for grown-ups to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or a snack beforehand. Grown-ups should check out all treats at home in a well-lighted place. Eat only unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Grown-ups should inspect fruit and homemade goodies, too. Call 911 if you suspect any tainted goodies. Discard any homemade or unwrapped treats.
- Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.
- By all means, remind kids not to eat everything at once or

they'll be feeling pretty ghoulish for a while.

### Dressed up and dangerous?

Halloween blood and gore are harmless stuff for the most part. But sometimes dressing up as a superhero, a swashbuckling pirate or an alien from outer space - coupled with the excitement of Halloween - brings out aggressive behavior. Even fake knives, swords, guns and other costume accessories can hurt people. If these objects are part of a child's costume, make sure they are made from cardboard or other flexible materials. Better yet, challenge kids to create costumes that don't need "weapons" to be scary and fun.

### Consider this

Parents and kids can avoid trick-or-treating entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests, music, scary stories and much more. Make your Halloween party the place to be. Schools, firefighters, libraries or civic groups in many communities organize "haunted houses" and other Halloween festivities for families.

### Driving

Always use extreme caution when driving a vehicle. Be on the alert for excited youngsters, ghosts, goblins, witches and other things that go bump in the night.

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