

Students prepare pancake breakfast at women's shelter

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Everyone needs a little help.

So students at North Carolina A&T State University enrolled in Professor Sandra Williamson's Women's Studies course prepared a pancake breakfast for Mary's House, a transitional housing program for homeless women struggling with addiction.



Williamson

Starting at 9 a.m. on Nov. 7, students began cooking. The women and children at Mary's House were not prepared for what the students were trying to do.

Team leader Nicole C. Simmons says, "I think this experience really left me baffled. The women were welcoming and humble, and it also humbled us at the same time. While some community service is just for hours, I would like to say our class did it for reasons other than that. We helped women, and at the same time it bonded our class as a whole."

By preparing pounds of pancakes and bacon, the women were very much appreciative of what the students had given with many warm hearted compliments and love passed through the house at the breakfast table. Students cleaned up and volunteered to take some of the load off the women by baby-sitting some of the children.

Student Erica Witherspoon said, "I loved it. The women were very nice. The children were shy at first, but after awhile, they started talking. I spend a lot of time with children, so it wasn't difficult to connect with them or change diapers, feed them, or put them down for a nap or anything. It was an awesome experience, and I want to do it again."

Before leaving, the goodbyes were long and loving. The women asked the students to make many returns.

Bike club delivers meals to families

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The FIRM, a motorcycle club started in 2007, recently held its Second Annual Thanksgiving Community Giveback.

The club took three local families under its wings and personally delivered to them Thanksgiving meals prepared by local K&W Cafeterias.

"Some try to pretend that Thanksgiving is just another day; it's not," members of The FIRM said in a statement. "Accelerated by the current economic crisis, it's already a day-to-day struggle just to put dinner on the table. Those of us who are fortunate enough to still have jobs and a family should feel the need to help those less fortunate. No, we're not trying to feed the entire community, but if we can bring that Thanksgiving joy to just a few people, the hard work we put in and the time away from our own families on this day is well worth it."

The FIRM was started by



Above: Members of The FIRM.

Right: Member Marcus Sutton with members of one of the recipient families.



locals who love to ride motorcycles, but the group has made community service a key part of their mission statement.

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