

Character Stick Figures

Respect

Responsibility

Fairness

Involvement

2006 SuperBUILD

By Travis Gonyou
Scholastic Kids Press Corps

It was only six months ago that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated part of the Gulf Coast. Since then, there has been a tremendous outpouring of support from people to help dislocated families. This week, volunteers from Habitat for Humanity affiliates throughout the state of Michigan, along with a number of NFL players, came together for a project dubbed SuperBUILD 2006. The goal of the program was to provide homes to families displaced by the recent hurricanes.

Metro Detroit Habitat for Humanity affiliates from Detroit, Oakland, and Macomb County have partnered with corporate sponsors to fund the 2006 SuperBUILD. For one week, local volunteers worked alongside NFL players Roland Williams (St. Louis Rams), Wes Walker (Miami Dolphins), Jason Hanson (Detroit Lions), and Anthony Adams (San Francisco 49ers) to build 40 prefabricated houses. The houses will now be shipped to partnering affiliates in Houston, Fort Worth, and College Station, Texas, and donated to the families who permanently relocated there following the hurricanes.

When Habitat for Humanity Michigan originally set the project in motion, the newly formed alliance between Detroit, Oakland, and Macomb counties reached out to local communities for help. They received an overwhelming response from more than 700 volunteers. Groups worked tirelessly for six days. Their selfless contributions, along with financial assistance from local businesses, led to 40 new "home kits" that will provide families with permanent shelter.

Mark Jansen, a representative for the Habitat for Humanity Michigan, praised the enormous amount of energy, dedication, and collaboration that was demonstrated throughout this endeavor. According to Jansen, coming together were people in three Detroit counties who have not always gotten along. Local businesses, he pointed out, that typically campaign against one another have united in their support for SuperBUILD.

SuperBUILD 2006 is just the beginning. Habitat for Humanity Michigan has announced that this project will take place in each upcoming Super Bowl host city from this year on.



Student Reporter Travis Gonyou talks to Roland Williams of the St. Louis Rams while he works.

Kids Help Out By Karen Fanning

Thursday, September 8—This Saturday, Justin Ryan Gonzalez will celebrate his 10th birthday. The invitations have been sent. The party arrangements have been made. There's only one hitch. Justin doesn't want any presents.

The Teaneck, New Jersey, boy has asked all 100 of his guests to bring cash or checks for the victims of Hurricane Katrina instead.

"He asked me to e-mail people who we've already sent invitations," says Maggie Gonzalez of her son's selfless request to go without gifts.

Justin is one of countless American kids who have responded to the tragic events in Louisiana and Mississippi by holding fundraisers, cracking open their piggy banks, and selling bake goods.

To date, the Salvation Army has collected \$51 million dollars. The American Red Cross has raised more than \$409 million, in part, thanks to the generous donations of kids across the country.

"It's going gangbusters," says Devorah Goldberg, a Red Cross spokesperson.

Christina Dannello and her friends have raised half of the \$1,000 they hope to donate to the hurricane victims. Christina can relate to the pain. She lost her home in a five-alarm fire one year ago.

"I wanted to help these people because they don't have homes, and I know how it feels," says the 12-year-old from Tynsboro, Massachusetts.

On the West Coast, a group of young people from Terra Linda, California, collected nearly \$1,400 selling lemonade, brownies, and popcorn. They staked out a spot at a busy intersection in town, waving signs and flagging down motorists.

"I would feel awful if I was there, seeing water up to the roof or houses," said one of the kids, Taylor Peterson. "To have all those things precious to you taken away—it's really tough."

Elsewhere across the country, high school students in DeSoto, Kansas, will collect bottled water at Friday night's football game. Young girls in Parma, Indiana, have donated dolls for the storm's youngest victims. And middle school students in Bryant, Arkansas, are providing school supplies for the many hurricane victims who will be attending their schools this fall.

Name _____

Character Trait Chart

Directions: Find four examples of the character traits (**Responsibility, Fairness, Involvement or Respect**), within the two articles. Identify the **trait, who** demonstrated it, and **what** that person did.

Trait	Who	What

Character Trait Chart Suggested Answers

Note: there are many examples of the traits within the article. Here are only 4.

Directions: Find four examples of the character traits (**Responsibility, Fairness, Involvement or Respect**), within the two articles. Identify the **trait, who** demonstrated it, and **what** that person did.

Trait	Who	What
Involvement	Habitat for Humanity, NFL players	Built houses for hurricane victims
Responsibility	Local communities of Detroit, Oakland, and Macomb.	United even though they often worked against each other in order to collect money for homes.
Involvement	Justin	Collected money for victims for his birthday.
Involvement	DeSoto, Kansas high school students	Collected water bottles at a football game.

Name _____

Volunteer Organization Research Cheat Sheet

Directions: Choose one of the volunteer organizations listed below. Look at the chart. The first research question has been given to you. What else would you like to know about your organization? Write down two more questions. Research the website to find the answers to your question and fill out the needed information on the cheat sheet. Also look to find what kind of preparedness for natural disasters the organization offers. Hint: look for the "About" section of the website and "DisasterRelief."

List of Organizations:

Action against Hunger <http://www.actionagainsthunger.org/>

American Red Cross www.redcross.org

Doctors without Borders <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

Habitat for Humanity www.habitat.org

Mercy Corps www.mercycorps.org

The Salvation Army <http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/>

Save the Children www.savethechildren.org

The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance <https://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/organization/bureaus/bureau-democracy-conflict-and-humanitarian-assistance/office-us>

Question	Answer	Community Preparedness	Website(s) Where I Found This Answer
What types of disasters does this organization respond to?			

Volunteer Organization Research Cheat Sheet Sample Answer Key

Directions: Choose one of the volunteer organizations listed below. Look at the chart below. The first research question has been given to you. What else would you like to know about your organization? Write down two more questions. Research the website to find the answers to your question and fill out the needed information on the cheat sheet. Also look to find what kind of preparedness for natural disasters the organization offers. Hint: look for the "About" section of the website and "disaster relief."

Red Cross

Question	Answer	Community Preparedness	Website(s) Where I Found This Answer
What disasters does this organization respond to?	They provide aid to victims of war and also victims of natural disasters.	They provide different manuals to help people be prepared. For example, the hurricane manual tells us what to do before and after a hurricane and what supplies we need	www.redcross.org
What can I do to help?	Red Cross helps communities big or small. You can give money or time. They even get people to donate blood.	You can take classes for CPR and even babysitting	www.redcross.org
What is an example of how the Red Cross helped?	They are helping people in the Caribbean to get prepared for hurricanes with disaster plans.	They teach people how to save lives, improve warning systems, and have projects to make drainage ditches.	An article on www.redcross.org

Advertise Here!

Directions: Use the information you research to write an advertisement for your volunteer organization. On a piece of poster paper, include the following:

1. Title of Organization (5 pts)
2. Paragraph describing the organization that includes 4 sentences. Include what it is and who they help (20 pts—5 pts for each complete sentence of important information)
3. 3 Graphics that represent the organization (15 pts—5 pts for each graphic)
4. 2 Persuasive statements to get people involved (e.g. You can make a difference!) (10 pts—5 pts for each statement)
5. Neatness and visual appeal (10 pts)

Total Points: 60