

President Nichols expresses gratitude for efforts of Katrina Relief volunteers

By Dr. WARREN NICHOLS
VSCC President

When so many bad things are happening around the world and to so many good people, it is often difficult to see how wonderful things can come out of tragedy and despair. While no one can or should try to downplay the terrible suffering of our neighbors to the south, it is truly a remarkable sight when thousands in our community lift up their hearts and empty their pocket books to help those in need.

Last week the call went out that the Red Cross needed monetary donations for those impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Staff Council President Carey Massey, with major support from our Public Relations Department, undertook the daunting task of assembling a team of volunteers throughout Sumner County, and at our Livingston Campus, to raise money for the Red Cross and the Katrina Relief Effort. Yesterday I was honored, privileged, and humbled by the overwhelming generosity of our students, faculty, staff, community leaders, and citizens.

I watched small children with their parents standing beside our roadways asking for money to help others in need. Scores of Vol State students, faculty, staff, and community members worked in shifts in air conditioned buildings, and under the beautiful Tennessee sky, all for one solitary reason. No glory, no self-serving goals, only the belief that their individual and collective efforts and sacrifices would help those who were no longer able to help themselves.

With the support of Trinity Baptist Church, several large trucks were filled with clothing, medical supplies, and non-perishable food items, and are even now beginning the journey south. For those who still wish to donate money or other items to the Katrina Relief Effort, one need look no further



Volunteers work to load a truck with supplies for Katrina evacuees. PHOTO BY ELLEN AKEN

than Sumner County for organizations which will continue the relief effort for days, weeks, and months to come.

All money collected yesterday has been counted, and I am proud to announce that Vol State, in our one day effort here at the main campus and at Livingston raised \$32,000 for the

Katrina Relief Effort. This is in addition to the truck loads of supplies also collected during this one day event.

Please accept my personal appreciation to all those involved in making this the most significant fundraising effort in Vol State's history. No one who will directly benefit

from our efforts will even know we gave, but we will know. Deep in our hearts, we will know that when others needed our help, we were there. We gave our money, sometimes all we had. We gave our time, and most importantly, we gave of ourselves.

Adjustment, uncertainty among challenges facing students displaced by Hurricane Katrina

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for Lee to come to Vol State.

Lee is among five evacuees from affected areas to attend Vol State, according to Connie Budai of the Vol State Admissions Office.

According to The Tennessean, 15,000 Katrina evacuees have relocated to Tennessee. Bredesen

vowed assistance "regardless of the cost to the state."

Lee doesn't know the state of her and her husband's home.

"We still don't know," she stated. "I won't know for a couple of months. There's probably a lot of wind damage."

Lee's residence was not affected by the flooding.

"There's a lot of catching up to do," remarked Lee. "[Vol State] is a little above from where I came."

The college provided Lee textbooks and she remarked on how helpful the faculty and administration have been. She specifically mentioned Connie Budai of Admissions, Jimmy Edwards and Muff Farmer, both of the EMT program.

"I'm fortunate enough," said Lee when asked about Red Cross assistance. "My husband's in the military. I don't need much help."

Despite having to wait "several months" before returning home, Lee can at least continue her education thanks to the statewide efforts of the governor's office and Vol State's administration and faculty.