

Katrina touches students, community



Students, alumni and staff suffer personal losses after storm

Erin Sadzewicz
Features Editor

The arms of Katrina's aftermath have not left Kirksville untouched. Having grown up near New Orleans, junior Alexandra Luedke can attest to this statement more than most.

Luedke lives in Mandeville, La., 25 miles from New Orleans and only a mile and three quarters from Lake Pontchartrain, the body of water that flooded New Orleans.

"I didn't even really pay attention with Freshman Week," she said. "I just got kind of caught up in everything. I wasn't even watching the news. I was like 'Oh yeah, hurricane, whatever.'" She said it wasn't long before the gravity of the predictions reached her and reality sunk in.

"Saturday night I turned on the TV, and I was like, 'Oh my God,'" Luedke said. "Because that was about the time they were predicting New Orleans was on the path."

"Then 8 a.m. on Sunday morning, my mom called and was like, 'What do you want from your room? This is the last time we'll ever see this house.'"

Luedke said Katrina came as a shock because her family was used to hurricanes and storms and never had evacuated before.

They had stayed for hurricanes Ivan and Andrew, and she said there always would be predictions that New Orleans would get hit, but it never happened until now.

"No one ever thought it would be like this," she said. "And it wasn't necessarily so much the storm ... it was the aftermath. They just never foresaw the levees breaking, all that kind of thing. Once the levees broke, it was all over."

For three days, Luedke's parents were traveling back and forth from Jackson, Miss., to Baton Rouge, La. and back to Jackson, and Luedke said she had no idea where they were or what might have happened to them.

"For the rest of the world, life goes on, but on Sunday, mine stopped," Luedke said.

She said of all the houses in her subdivision, only four were left standing, and fortunately, her house escaped permanent structural damage.

"There's a lot of wind damage," she said. "We've seen pictures of our subdivision, and it looks like a bomb went off."

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Alexandra Luedke
Junior

The government will not allow the residents of Luedke's neighborhood to return until Dec. 1, and it will be at least two weeks before her subdivision has water or utilities, she said.

"You watch all the places you used to hang out and see your friends, and then all your memories just get washed away," Luedke said. "It's kind of like, 'Oh well,' everything else seems kind of trivial now."

Luedke said she is disgusted with the media's coverage of the hurricane, and its focus is on the wrong aspect of the



Sheila Luedke/for the Index
Junior Alexandra Luedke's home, only about two miles from Lake Pontchartrain, is one of only four houses in her subdivision in Mandeville, La., to escape serious structural damage from Hurricane Katrina. While their home will be livable eventually, both her parents have lost their jobs, and the future is uncertain for her family, Luedke said.

aftermath. The shootings and looting don't deserve the attention they are getting, she said.

"For every act of violence and awful thing you see on CNN and USA Today, [The New York] Times and whatever, there's at least 250 acts being committed in good faith and kindness to complete strangers," she said.

Alumnus Karl Hendrickson is working for under-resourced schools in Mobile, Ala., just 25 miles north of the Gulf.

Hendrickson said he and his roommate stayed through the storm.

"We here in Mobile were without power for about three days," he said. "But all power has returned to us, though we still face a gas shortage, and supplies at local grocery stores can be scarce at times."

Hendrickson works for the Alliance for Catholic Education, and he said the ACE community in Pascagoula, Miss., a half-hour's drive away, has suffered damage. He said he has been driving there almost every day to help them clean up.

Hendrickson said they are in need of donations, and the people affected need money and food but also simple things like shampoo, soap and toothpaste.

"The best thing to do, in two words, is to be generous," he said. "...If people want direct links to the people affected, we are willing to provide that link."

The ACE communities have set up a bank account through the University of Notre Dame to help rebuild the schools and homes of people in the ACE community, Hendrickson said. He also said Notre Dame is

willing to get any other donations directly to those in need.

"We will get it to the schools that have been affected," he said. "I hate to say that [giving] to the Red Cross is impersonal. If you are more interested in direct aid, we are more than willing to take direct donations."

Hendrickson said donations can be sent to 411 Little Flower Ave., Mobile, AL 36606. Questions can be directed to (251) 479-9088.

"I always try to have faith that good will come of it," Hendrickson said.

Sal Costa, professor of psychology, was born and raised in New Orleans and said he has family still unaccounted for. He said he hopes they've evacuated to Hammond, La. where other family resides.

"One group [of families] lived 6 blocks from Lake Pontchar-

train," he said. "And the other lived 8 blocks from Lake Pontchartrain. So I'm pretty sure that their house was extremely flooded."

Costa said New Orleans was a unique and irreplaceable melting pot of culture, and he doesn't believe it's people will abandon their city.

"They're pretty hard-headed people," he said. "I mean it's pretty obvious like how some of them are so steadfast on not leaving the city and not going away."

Costa said he admires the humanity being displayed after this tragedy.

"You know we might be seen as hard or uncaring or whatever," he said. "Boy it sure was beautiful the way it came out."

Costa will sit in the dunk tank 2:30 Friday afternoon for the fundraising event.

Campus leaders connect to aid relief effort

Maggie Wolcott
Staff Reporter

Student leaders across campus are jumping at the chance to help the Gulf Coast region by raising money for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Sophomore Shayna Williams said Zeta Phi Beta wanted to raise money because some of its members had family affected by the hurricane.

Williams said her cousin was one of the hurricane's victims, and raising money was the least she could do to help.

"She lost everything," Williams said. "She had the same clothes she had on when her house got flooded."

Williams said Zeta Phi Beta is part of the joint effort to raise money.

A week after the hurricane pounded the Gulf, student leaders began forming a committee through the Student Union to help coordinate fundraising efforts among numerous campus organizations. Multiple fundraising events are now planned to coincide with the Red Cross blood drive.

Senior John Allen serves on the committee and Red Cross board as a representative for Blue Key.

Allen said he saw the need to help. "I'm here," he said. "I can just sit in my dorm room and play video games, or I can do something."

Allen said to donate to this cause is the duty of good citizens and mature adults.

"I know we are poor college students, but you can really fork over five dollars when some people had a home one day, and it's underwater the next day, and they might not be back there for two years," Allen said.

The organizations raising money are not competing, but working as a team, Allen said.

"If we're to work as a country, we've got to help out those who are less fortunate - in this case, those who happened to live in New Orleans," Allen said.

Senior Phil Campbell, a member of the committee, said the committee was formed so all organizations could work together.

"I have a big problem when, like, eight organizations do the same thing around the same time for the same reason, but they don't work together at all," Campbell said.

He said the formation of the committee made sense because everyone has different resources, connections and experience.

"We as student leaders at Truman have the ability to impact, and affect and help," Campbell said.

The committee first met with organizations interested in helping the fundraising campaign Sept. 6.

Campbell said that at first the committee was nervous the word wasn't going to get out about the fundraising efforts.

The word did get out with some adver-

tising. About 30 people representing various organizations and classes attended the first meeting.

Students started offering ideas to help with the fund-raising effort, Campbell said.

"Basically a lot of people are coming out of the woodwork to help with this," he said.

In addition to collecting money, organizations are gathering canned food and clothing. The Salvation Army will ship the supplies collected to the Gulf Coast region, Campbell said. Organizations can bring the donations they already have collected to the committee so it can accumulate the total amount of Truman donations, he said.

Campbell said the fundraising campaign has generated a lot of buzz, and everybody is giving selflessly.

"Ideally if every student was able to donate something to the total of \$10 we would have ... \$60,000 to help the national efforts," Campbell said. "That would be awesome."

Senior Kristen Carson said she is serving on the committee because she wanted to do her part to help.

"There is a need for the money and the canned goods and the clothing, anything we can do," Carson said.

Carson said the committee is working toward unifying the Truman community to contribute together.

"It is exciting to know we can come

Fundraising Events

- **Thursday: Clash for Katrina Relief**
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m. Quad: Water balloon fight
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m. Mall: Ice Cream Block Party
- **Friday: Relief Rally**
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Quad: Dunk Tank
11 a.m.-1 p.m. Quad: BBQ, \$4

together," Carson said. "We are empowered by our University to be able to do this type of effort."

Faculty, staff and some members of the administration also are getting involved in the fundraising efforts. Carson said people already have pledged to match or double donations during the dunk tank fundraiser Friday.

Dave Lusk, assistant dean of student affairs, said if students raise \$150 during his time in the dunk tank, he will get a Mohawk haircut onsite.

Carson said for students who don't have money to donate, plenty of options to help still are available. Students can spread awareness of the need and work fund-raising events, she said.

Carson said now that the committee

has laid the groundwork, it plans to do another fund-raising drive for the relief efforts in the future.

"We know the need isn't going to be over soon," Carson said. "We don't want to just forget about them."

The SERVE Center also has been collecting money since Sept. 7 and will continue to do so until Sept. 21. It is working in conjunction with KTVO's "Spirit of the Heartland Relief Round-up." At Hy-Vee and Wal-Mart, shoppers can choose to round up their receipts to the nearest one dollar or five dollar amount. The money collected will go to the American Red Cross.

Students who are interested in helping with the fund-raising may contact the committee at TrumanSUB@gmail.com.

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