

## The Devastation of Katrina and Rita Efforts Made to Bring Relief to Victims

It's a condition that many people in eastern North Carolina know all too well — the devastation of a major hurricane. Even before Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, the Goodwill Community Foundation™ was preparing aid for the victims. Initially, \$20,000 was pledged to provide the supplies needed to fill flood buckets, 5-gallon plastic buckets filled with cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene kits made up of hand towels, washcloths, band-aids, tooth paste and tooth brushes, combs and nail clippers. An additional \$50,000 was donated to disaster relief agencies to be used in the affected areas.

GIENC<sup>SM</sup> School-to-Work interns and contract workers, put together a total of 1,000 Flood Buckets and Personal Hygiene kits for the affected areas. The Flood Buckets and Personal Hygiene kits were distributed by MERCI, a disaster relief program of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.



*GCF® Director Steve Snyderman, presents a \$25,000 check to Alfred Gwinn, Jr., Bishop of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.*



*Robert Bloodworth from MERCI, a disaster relief program of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, examines the first load of Flood Buckets sent to the Gulf Coast.*



*GCF® President Dennis McLain (left) presents a \$25,000 check to Richard Brunson (center), Executive Director and Treasurer of North Carolina Baptist Men, and Gaylon Moss (right), Disaster Relief Director.*



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### Talk to us ...

It is a great pleasure to bring you our newsletter and to keep you updated with what is happening at the Goodwill Community Foundation. If you have questions or comments about our programs or if you would rather not receive the GCF Report, please call Becky Lytle at (919) 941-9600, ext. 102.

# The GCF Report

Goodwill Community Foundation™  
Autumn 2005

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**Secretary of State Elaine Marshall was guest speaker for Celebrate Goodwill.**

**GCF Global Learning® welcomes computer instructor from Zambia**

**GCF sends aid to the Gulf Coast in wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.**

## Nature Center to Provide Learning Opportunities Nature Will Be the Newest Instructor

With the planting of spinach on a cloudy and brisk late October afternoon, the new GCF Nature Center™ was born. Located on land adjacent to the offices of the Goodwill Community Foundation (GCF), the center is a new project that will be used as an educational resource for the GIENC<sup>SM</sup> School-to-Work program for students with disabilities. Planting spinach is just the first step. The center will eventually include nature and exercise trails, a greenhouse, more gardens, ponds, and a nature center with classrooms and a welcome area. Ultimately it will also serve as a learning resource for the school systems in Orange, Durham and Wake Counties.

The 14-acre property was acquired from long-time Goodwill Industries neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wheeley. Mr. Wheeley has been very visible in the early days of the center, helping out by plowing and tilling the soil for planting.

Spinach and kale, both cold-weather crops, will be the first vegetables to be grown on the center. As they grow, other areas of the center will be developed. The trails will be among the first projects to be started, offering community service opportunities to school groups and scout troops to help clear and develop the trails. When finished, they will include signage for the visually impaired and blind, signs labeling trees, foliage, insects and potential wildlife, resting places with benches, exercise stations with directions, bird feeders and houses and outdoor art.



*Gena Brown, School-to-Work Liaison, and Mr. Wheeley determine the best way to plant the spinach seeds.*

### Our Mission...

*to provide an environment for people to improve the quality of their lives through employment and learning opportunities with a focus on people with disabilities.*

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# Lessons at the Center

*Continued from page one*

An agriculture instructor will soon join the staff to plan a curriculum that will include plant care, basic gardening and the use of greenhouse tools, propagation, planting — both indoors and outdoors, watering, pruning, planning the garden and insect and disease control.

The interns will learn about various types of gardens, such as rain gardens that help purify ground water. They will work in vegetable gardens and in special gardens with crops that are indigenous to North Carolina. All edible produce will be donated to area organizations that feed the hungry.

Landscaping will be another skill that will be taught at the center. All students working with the various gardens or landscaping areas will learn how to prepare the garden or area for whatever they plan to grow, how to prune, how to control insects and disease and how to cultivate their plants.

A large greenhouse with will be added to the property, bringing with it unique learning opportunities for the interns. A storage unit will be specially outfitted with color-coded tools, a safe area for chemicals, a potting area with supplies and a storage area for personal protective equipment.

This is a one-of-a-kind learning center for this area of the state. As it grows and classrooms and a welcome center are added, it will be a wonderful GCF resource and a resource for the entire community.



*(top) Student interns in the GIENC<sup>SM</sup> School-to-Work program get their first look at the center as Mr. Wheeley tills the soil. (center) The hard, dry ground was plowed to prepare for the first crop of spinach and kale. (bottom) One of the most important first tasks on the center was to dig a well so that the center can have an irrigation system.*



# North Carolina's Secretary of State Elaine Marshall Speaks to Learners



*Secretary of State Elaine Marshall congratulated learners on completing courses through GCF Global Learning<sup>®</sup>. She also told them that their accomplishments are very important.*



GCF Global Learning<sup>®</sup> and GIENC<sup>SM</sup> School-to-Work participants and their friends and relatives were honored to be addressed by Secretary of State Elaine Marshall at the fall Celebrate Learning event at Goodwill Industries of Eastern North Carolina (GIENC) in October. The semi-annual event honors those people who have completed classes through GCF Global Learning<sup>®</sup>, either online or at the GCF Global Learning<sup>®</sup> Center in Raleigh and the GIENC<sup>SM</sup> School-to-Work program.

In her talk, Ms. Marshall emphasized the importance of continuing education and how, throughout her career, she has been faced with changing situations. “When I became Secretary of State, I was shocked at how few computers were in use in the department,” she said. She made sure that every employee in her department got a computer for use in their work and gave each the opportunity for training in computer skills.



*(photo left) GIENC Vice President and CEO Linda McLain welcomes learners and their guests as she prepares to call out names of certificate recipients. (photo above) GIENC President Dennis McLain explains to Ms. Marshall the opportunities offered through GCF Global Learning<sup>®</sup>.*

# Computer Instructor Visits from Africa

The staff of GCF Global Learning<sup>®</sup> recently hosted a visitor from Kitwe, Zambia. Muteb “Elvis” Mufind is a computer skills instructor there at the New Life Center, an organization that continues to receive support from GCF.

During his week-long visit to GCF Global Learning<sup>®</sup>, Elvis observed Global Learning instructors to see how we teach computer skills.



*GCF Global Learning staff (l to r): Mark Bryant, William Mangum, Muteb “Elvis” Mufind, Matt Robinson, Kelly Potter and Courtney Hodgson.*