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More Than Three Dozen Keuka College Students Volunteering in Gulf Coast

KEUKA COLLEGE—Though reports of the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita no longer dominate the daily news, the residents of the Gulf Coast region remain in need of help.

The priority now is feeding the hundreds of thousands of people left homeless by the storms, according to Sandi Perl, executive director of the Yates County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

And that's what the majority of the 39 Keuka College students deployed to the New Orleans area are doing this month.

"Many of them are driving emergency response vehicles through the area or working in kitchens," said Perl.

Two students were deployed to Biloxi, Miss., where one of the students, Meghan Roberts, is providing assistance with client casework.

This crop of students is following in the footsteps of students who used their Field Periods in January 2002 to help with post-911 recovery efforts in New York City. Field Period is a required internship program and one of the main reasons why Keuka is recognized as the national leader in experiential, hands-on learning.

Red Cross training began Nov. 1 and all of the student volunteers were required to complete CPR and first aid training as well as two, three-hour courses: *Mass Care* and *Shelter Operations*. Other courses offered were: *Family Services*, *Emergency Vehicle Driving*, *Damage Assessment*, *Logistics*, *Public Affairs*, and *Shelter Operations Simulation*.