



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OU Student Spends Spring Break Volunteering

Jaclyn Hull rebuilds homes during United Way Alternative Spring Break 2008

NORMAN- University of Oklahoma senior Jaclyn Hull of Ardmore spent her Spring Break rebuilding homes in Lake Charles, La., as part of the United Way's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) 2008.

This was Hull's second year to spend Spring Break volunteering on the Gulf Coast. She says Lake Charles is still suffering from the 2005 landfall of Hurricane Rita.

"The area is getting a lot better and I could tell the difference from last year and the improvements that had been made," said Hull. "But hurricane recovery is a five to ten year process and they'll need help next year as well."

About 600 students from across the country dedicated a week to ASB 2008. United Way leaders say the energy and devotion of these young adults is vital to the rebuilding process in devastated communities.

"This year, we continue to build on the groundswell of compassion and commitment of Generation Y.," stated Brian A. Gallagher, President and CEO, United Way of America. "There's not a better connection that we could make between people who need help and people who can help."

Hull spent her week at ASB 2008 working on two houses. The owner of one of the houses was an 82-year-old woman who was disabled and could not afford the repair work. Hull's team ripped the damaged roof of that house down to the decking. The next week a crew came in and put down new shingles.

"The best part of the trip was interacting with all the citizens of Lake Charles," said Hull. "Hearing their stories of how they survived are amazing and how grateful they are that young people are coming from all over the country to help them rebuild."

Hull is itching to go back to the Gulf Coast again and she hopes other OU students will join her. She says, "To give up your vacation is something that is rewarding and it is still fun. ASB 2007 and 2008 were the best weeks of my life and I cannot wait until next year."

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About United Way of Norman

The United Way of Norman seeks to create lasting community changes in the Norman area by focusing on three impact areas: Successful Children & Youth, Strong & Safe Families and Independent & Active Seniors. Our vision is a community working together to make life better for everyone. For more information about the United Way of Norman, please visit www.unitedwaynorman.com.

About United Way

United Way is a national network of nearly 1,300 local organizations that advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key building blocks of education, income and health. United Way of America is the national organization dedicated to leading the United Way movement to create long lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of the most significant issues. Common focus areas for local United Ways include helping children and youth achieve their potential, promoting financial stability and independence, and improving people's health. Living united means being a part of the change. Give. Advocate. Volunteer. LIVE UNITED. For more information about United Way, please visit: www.unitedway.org.
