

Student leadership still collecting supplies for hurricane care packages

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On Aug. 30 the University's Student Leadership Development & Service-Learning Office started collecting supplies for and coordinating assembly of care packages for children who are homeless because of flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina. Each care package will contain a book, crayons, a coloring book, a pre-packaged granola or snack bar, and fruit snacks or a piece of candy, according to Kelly Meier, Student Leadership Development & Service-Learning director.

The office still needs gallon Ziploc bags, fruit snacks, small boxes of crayons (24 or less), and pre-packaged granola or snack bars. It also needs financial donations to assist with shipping costs, purchase of some supplies, and a student team mission to New Orleans next spring to assist with rebuilding efforts.

Donors may leave supplies at the student leadership office, 173 Centennial Student Union, or at the Mankato Hilltop HyVee. Those who wish to donate money or labor should contact Meier or Sammie Eckerson at (507) 389-6076.

Care packages will be assembled on Wednesday, Sept. 7. Many community members, students, faculty and staff have volunteered to help.

Others have offered other assistance, including students of the Madelia School District, who are collecting supplies. Minnesota State employee Dwight Wallin and his son offered to deliver the packages to New Orleans. The student leadership office has received numerous calls from alumni and retired faculty and staff members.

The office is working with Jumpstart National Headquarters to coordinate distribution of the packages, Meier said.