

GOOD WORKS



Madonna students repair a home in Biloxi, Mississippi. Students aid Katrina victims

By Ivan Helfman
If Madonna learning-service students have a battle cry, it must be "Remember Katrina!" Every year since 2005, when Hurricane Katrina flooded New Orleans and blew many other Gulf Coast cities to smithereens, several Madonna students have flown to Mississippi to help repair the storm's lingering damage on their spring break.

"We're going to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, to restore the salt

marshes on Deer Island, a nearby barrier island in the Gulf," said freshman Dean Herron, a recent Livonia Franklin High grad. "I'm going there to film the work," said Julie Pulgini, a forty-seven-year-old Hills woman who recently returned to Madonna (she had dropped out years ago to work in former Congressman Joe Knollenberg's campaign and district offices) to study sociology and film production.

"We are extremely proud to be listed on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the second consecutive year," said Kevin West, who directs the university's learning-service program, which has over a thousand student volunteers.

Tolerance spread

Nidhal Garmo MCs international peace conference in Iraq

By Ivan Helfman

Speaking on her biggest stage—an international tolerance conference in Arbil, a city in Northern Iraq, attended by many government and religious leaders—Nidhal Garmo unveiled her most ambitious plan yet to help the suffering children of Iraq.

"I announced plans to build Iraq's first cancer hospital and a \$1.5 million orphanage to help some of the millions of children orphaned by the war," said Garmo, who moderated a session at the conference last month.

Most of the conference attendees offered their support.

"In Northern Iraq, it doesn't seem like there's a war going on any more," said Garmo, who returned to the Hills this month to raise money for the projects through her nonprofit, Victims of War and Poverty. Fundraising begins with a June 18 event at Farmington Hills Manor, at 23666 Orchard Lake, in Farmington Hills.

For more information or to contribute, visit www.fvwp.com.



Nidhal Garmo, center, moderates a discussion.



Garmo delivers clothes to a child in a hospital.

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Relay kicks off

Registration for the Farmington-area Relay For Life—the American Cancer Society's largest fundraiser—begins at 6:30 p.m., March 12, at the Longacre House, at 24705 Farmington Road, north of Ten Mile, in Farmington Hills. This year's Relay takes place at Shiawassee Park in Farmington, from 10 a.m., Saturday, May 30 to 10 a.m., Sunday, May 31. For more information, call (248) 663-3423 or e-mail kari.decarlo@cancer.org.

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