

**United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra**  
811 Ryland St.  
Reno, NV 89502  
775-322-8668  
www.uwnns.org



**United Way of Northern  
Nevada and the Sierra**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 11, 2011

Media Contact: Cortney Maddock, KPS3 Marketing  
phone: 775-686-7432  
cortney@kps3.com

## **UNR STUDENTS SPEND SPRING BREAK VOLUNTEERING IN NEW ORLEANS**

**Student United Way members helped rebuild elderly woman's home after it was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina**

**Reno, Nev.** — While other students were visiting exotic spring break locations, 11 members the of University of Nevada, Reno's Student United Way volunteered from March 14 to 20 as part of the group's Alternative Spring Break to rebuild a home in New Orleans after it was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina.

"We decided to go help with the relief efforts in New Orleans during our spring break because we spend so much of our time helping here in Reno throughout the year," said Felicia Kampf, president of the UNR Student United Way. "This gives everyone in the club a chance to go out and help others in a different area while also gaining the experience of being exposed to how we can help on a larger scale and in different ways."

The students worked with the St. Bernard Project, a nonprofit organization formed 2006 to create housing opportunities for Hurricane Katrina survivors in order for them to return to their homes and communities.

The 11 members of the UNR Student United Way started rebuilding a home in New Orleans. The group quickly completed work in an effort to make the home livable again before return to Reno for classes the following Monday.

"We were getting through projects so fast our site supervisor hadn't even ordered supplies yet," Kampf said.

Part of the student's work included mudding walls, painting and starting to put in flooring.

"This house was destroyed during the flood and it was an elderly woman's home," Kampf said. "She is still displaced from her home and the community."

The group's work will help the woman move back into her home, which Kampf said will allow her to regain her connection to the community and family.

UNR Student United Way member Courtney Lenhart participated in Alternative Spring Break for the first time and said she was happy to volunteer during her free time from school.

"I really enjoy volunteering," Lenhart said. "It's just always fulfilling. I can use my spring break to do something good."

Kampf returned to New Orleans for the second time as a volunteer.

“The first time was actually doing something on my spring break,” Kampf said. “The reason I went again is because the first experience and that feeling is really amazing”

On the trip, the 11 UNR Student United Way members also toured the Lower 9th Ward to better understand the devastating damage Hurricane Katrina had on the region.

For more information about the UNR Student United Way, visit [www.facebook.com/NevadaSUW](http://www.facebook.com/NevadaSUW).

**About United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra**

United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra brings the community together to identify our most pressing needs, produce measurable results, and, thereby, improve lives. United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra is achieving meaningful impact here in our community by using expertise and knowledge through innovative funding of programs and initiatives that have a positive influence on the people of northern Nevada and the Lake Tahoe communities. For more information, call 775-322-8668 or visit [www.uwnns.org](http://www.uwnns.org).