



REGINA DOMINICAN

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

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Swimming, fund-raising, serving: Regina reaches out

The Regina Dominican community continues to reach out in a variety of creative ways to those whose lives were disrupted by Hurricane Katrina. Most recently, outreach efforts have included a swim-a-thon, a fund-raising effort and service.

Regina Dominican's swim team held their swim-a-thon during a practice session on September 19. Pledges brought in nearly \$1,000 for the team's 2,076 laps.

Two Regina Dominican alumnae and one of the school's nurses are teaming together to raise funds to build a clinic for uninsured patients in New Orleans. Joan Mulvihill Kitchie '77 and Jodi Weschler, a nurse at Regina, established Friends of New Orleans to fund the clinic. Both reside in Wilmette.

Mrs. Kitchie, mother of sophomore Laura Kitchie, said her organization is working through her Regina classmate, Dr. Patricia Kissinger, Ph.D., a registered nurse, public health specialist, and professor at Tulane University. Their hopes are to have the clinic ready by January, Mrs. Kitchie said.

Friends of New Orleans has already raised \$14,000 at a special Labor Day fund-raising event at Mrs. Weschler's home. Donations to Friends of New Orleans can be dropped off at any North Shore Community Bank or mailed to Friends of New Orleans, North Shore Community Bank, 1145 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091. Mrs. Weschler expects the account to be open through January.

Finally, Mrs. Catherine Troka Cerone, of the Class of 1971, has translated her concern for hurricane victims into action. Using her skills and training as a registered nurse, Mrs. Cerone is helping to support the Recovery Care Shelter in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area and is working with officers of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service.

"I heard about the great need for nurses and other health care providers while reading a monthly nursing e-publication on Medscape just after Katrina hit the Gulf Coast," she wrote to friends and family. Some 32,000 health care workers responded and were cautioned to wait until they were called into service; the need for health care workers is expected to continue for the next six months.

Mrs. Cerone left for Baton Rouge on September 30 after receiving her call from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Upon her arrival at Camp Phoenix, she was to receive her assignment and work with a team. She will return on October 14.

"I am looking forward to serving our fellow countrymen, who are still struggling to have their most basic human needs met," Mrs. Cerone wrote. "If I can, in some small way, help to ease their suffering, give them hope, let them know they are so loved and cared about, it would, indeed, be an honor." She asked for prayers for the health care volunteers and for the families who have lost so much.

Through the next months, Regina Dominican will continue to find creative ways to reach out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.