

FedEx's amazing break

For the second year in a row, FedEx was the lead sponsor for United Way *Alternative Spring Break* (ASB) 2007. Although they more than doubled their 2006 contribution, FedEx was much more than a monetary sponsor. From setting up the FedEx Internet Café where ASB participants sent emails home, [blogged](#) about their experience and uploaded [pictures](#) to share with friends, to the FedEx Special Delivery truck bringing lunches out to ASB worksites, FedEx was an invaluable hands-on partner.

United Way *Alternative Spring Break 2007* grew from the success of Storm Corps 2006. Thanks to FedEx's sponsorship, during the 2007 ASB program, United Way of America and local partner, United Way of Southwest Louisiana, brought **379 young adults to Lake Charles, Louisiana** during the four weeks of March. Participants brought much-needed aid to the Gulf Coast region.

FedEx's partnership helped United Way make lasting changes in Southwest Louisiana:

- Over four weeks, ASB participants **renovated 30 houses, painted six buildings, and repaired a children's camp** to open for the first time since Hurricane Rita hit. ASB's 27,059.5 hours of service paid back \$496,541.83 of Louisiana's cost share to FEMA.
- When evaluating how much of a difference ASB was able to make in the community, **99% of participants believed they were either very effective or somewhat effective in making a difference.**

Thanks in large part to FedEx's support, United Way increased our ability to impact communities by:

- Engaging young people in the work of United Way and involving them in meaningful volunteer service in such a way that they feel engaged in the community and empowered to give back
- Improving the lives of the individuals and families in the communities Alternative Spring Break served
- Leaving young people feeling empowered to make a meaningful impact in their own communities and beyond

Making an Impact on Young Adults

- **Increased sense of potential** – The ASB experience left most participants more certain that young adults can improve their communities, and gave **75% of participants new ideas for making a difference in their community.**
- **Increased likelihood to volunteer** – After ASB 84% of participants said they were more likely to volunteer in the future. The second post-trip survey found that **half of participants volunteered after ASB – and 25% are volunteering regularly.**
- **Increased awareness** – Before ASB, 28% of participants reported a good understanding of Hurricane Rita's effects. After ASB, 94% of participants reported a good understanding of the hurricane's effects.



"I loved seeing my group soak in the experience. Most had never volunteered before and all tell me they can't wait to find a way to get involved in their communities when they get home." ~Allison Friar, Team Leader and United eWay employee