



NEWS RELEASE
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UNITED WAY ANNOUNCES ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK 2007

-- Over 300 Young People Volunteering to Rebuild After Hurricane Rita --

Alexandria, VA – United Way of America today announced that it is sponsoring ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK (ASB) 2007 to focus on rebuilding the Gulf Coast and provide opportunities for young people to help change their own communities through service.

In 2006, United Way of America partnered with *thinkMTV* to create *Storm Corps*, a program for young people interested in helping rebuild Gulf Coast communities devastated by the hurricanes of 2005. The goal of Storm Corps was first to help those directly affected by the 2005 hurricanes recover and rebuild; and second, to inspire young people to engage in community service during their Spring Break. Last year, 94 *Storm Corps* participants assisted in the rebuilding efforts in Biloxi MS and Foley, AL by completing projects such as removing debris from yards, repairing porches and roofs, tearing out walls and mold mitigation preparation.

As in 2006, FedEx, a United Way National Corporate Leader, is the lead sponsor of ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK 2007. Joining FedEx in supporting United Way ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK 2007 is national video game retailer GameStop/EB Games. MTV is supporting the program as a media partner, promoting the program on air and online to help recruit participants. MTV will also be filming during United Way ASB for a documentary called "The Amazing Break," which will air the weekend of March 23rd.

"We are so proud to be able to sponsor this important program that brings the energy and enthusiasm of young people who have committed to give their time and talents to help those in need and assist in the Gulf Coast rebuilding process," stated Brian A. Gallagher, President and CEO, United Way of America. "There's not a better connection that we could make than between people who need help and people who can help. It's also important to remember that rebuilding the Gulf Coast devastated by the hurricanes will take years...and we must not stop until it's complete," Gallagher continued.

Based on the overwhelming success of the 2006 Storm Corps, United Way has recruited over 300 participants to each spend a week in Lake Charles, Louisiana this time helping those affected by Hurricane Rita. The teams will be hosted by United Way of Southwest Louisiana and stay at the Volunteer Housing Center located in Moss Bluff near Lake Charles, LA. Specifically, the projects in Southwest Louisiana will include:

- Rehabilitating existing homes that were damaged by Hurricane Rita and build new ones
- Clear and rehabilitate Camp Wi-Ta-Wentin, a Campfire USA youth camp

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK 2007 kicked off on Friday, August 25, 2006 with the airing of "True Life: I'm Returning to the Gulf Coast" on MTV. This 60 minute program documented four young people who evacuated after Hurricane Katrina and returned to the devastated region. To follow the efforts of those participating in ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK 2007 during the month of March, log on to: <http://blog.unitedway.org/asb>. For more information about United Way and ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK, log on to www.unitedway.org.

About United Way

United Way is a national network of more than 1,300 local organizations that work to create lasting positive changes in communities and people's lives by addressing the underlying causes of the most significant local issues. While local United Ways tackle issues based on local needs, common areas of focus include helping children and youth succeed, improving access to health care, promoting financial stability, and strengthening families. For more information about United Way, please visit: www.unitedway.org.