



**LIVINGSTON  
CARES  
2023  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



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Dear Livingston County CARES Members, Volunteers and Donors:

Thank you for your support and involvement in Livingston CARES programs and services. Each year in April, we prepare the **Livingston CARES Annual Community Report** to share the highlights of our events and programs.

In 2020, Livingston CARES canceled service trips due to the pandemic and suspended offering service trips in 2021 and 2022. During the current 2023 spring semester, we scheduled three trips to Florida, Louisiana and Puerto Rico. Two trips occurred during spring break in March and the third trip will take place in May. All three trips were filled with seven volunteers each and trip leaders who are alumni from previous Livingston CARES service trips. The Sulfur, Louisiana trip volunteers worked on homes damaged by two major hurricanes and the Florida trip with seven volunteers worked with Give Kids the World families at the Make A Wish Foundation facilities in Kissimmee. The Puerto Rico May trip volunteers will work on parks and trails devastated by Hurricanes Maria and Irma in 2017 and Fiona in 2022.

Livingston CARES humanitarian efforts continued in 2022-2023. During the fall semester of 2022, we raised funds to assist with recovery work from Hurricane Ian in Florida and donated funds to the Lee BIA Builders Care non-profit agency that is providing assistance to low-income families in the Fort Myers area. We also raised funds to help the earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria and sent donations to three nonprofits working in the two countries: World Central Kitchen, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, and Direct Relief International. In late March, Livingston CARES contributed monies from unrestricted gifts to support Mercy Chefs that provided thousands of meals to families displaced by the tornadoes in the Rolling Fork area of Mississippi.

In addition to collecting and distributing contributions for special disaster recovery projects, Livingston CARES supports multiple local programs. We accepted donations for the Home Away from Home Respite Program for individuals with Alzheimer's and memory-related diseases and donations to the Linking Hands for Learning project that builds schools in Nicaragua. We also supported programs managed by the Office of Student Volunteerism and Community Engagement including Food Security Advocates, the Pantry at Geneseo, and the annual Geneseo Goes to Town service day in April.

Again, thank you to our members, volunteers and donors for your support and engagement in Livingston CARES programs and projects and contributions through Gumbo to Go Dinners, ROC The Day Giving Tuesday, the State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA), and our Souper Scholarship Fundraiser at Mama Mias. If you would like more information on the history and current activities of the organization, please go to our website at: <https://www.geneseo.edu/livingston-cares> and read our monthly electronic newsletter for information on current events and programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Matthews". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tom Matthews  
President, Livingston County CARES

# Mission and History of Livingston CARES

## ***Mission***

The mission of Livingston County CARES is to help communities and individuals locally, regionally, statewide, nationwide, and globally in humanitarian projects, including disaster relief and recovery efforts. Livingston County CARES provides a central repository for resources and information for individuals and organizations wishing to contribute to disaster relief efforts.

## ***A Brief History of Livingston CARES***

Livingston County CARES, Inc. is a collaborative effort among groups and organizations at SUNY Geneseo and in the Geneseo and Livingston County community that started in September 2005 to focus on relief and recovery efforts by helping people in Harrison County, Mississippi. The initial groups were members of SUNY Geneseo students, faculty, and staff, the Livingston County Administrator, the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Geneseo, the Village of Geneseo, and the Livingston County Coalition of Churches. Individuals, organizations, schools, local municipalities, and interested citizens were invited to participate in Livingston County CARES' projects and programs. Livingston County CARES, Inc. was incorporated and registered as a New York State non-profit organization in 2006. In March 2007, the IRS granted CARES tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Gifts and donations to CARES are tax deductible. Donations may be given as restricted gifts for specific projects or the general fund. Livingston CARES board members are volunteers and there are no employees and very minimal administrative overhead. The headquarters for Livingston CARES is in the Center for Community and the Division of Student & Campus Life at SUNY Geneseo. The Center for Community supports CARES through its commitment to volunteer work, leadership development, civic engagement of students, and outreach to community organizations. Organizations and individuals interested in volunteering or making contributions should

contact Tom Matthews at 585-245-5857 or by email at [matthews@geneseo.edu](mailto:matthews@geneseo.edu) or Mackenzie DeRider at 585-245-5893 or email [vc@geneseo.edu](mailto:vc@geneseo.edu).

## ***Investing Livingston CARES Volunteers Time and Resources in Disaster Recovery Efforts***

The most recent estimates from the Independent Section suggests the total value of our volunteer efforts at \$2,311,941. This is calculated through estimating a wage of \$29.19 per hour for 1,491 volunteers on 90 Livingston CARES week-long service trips to Biloxi, Long Island/Staten Island/Brooklyn, Detroit, Stony Point, Texas, Puerto Rico, Florida Keys, Florida Panhandle and Orlando (Give Kids the World). In addition to their time, volunteers paid trip fees of \$59,640.00 to participate in the 90 service trips. Livingston CARES has also received gifts and donations to assist volunteers with travel expenses and for projects in Harrison County and the New York metropolitan area. Since CARES was established in 2005, Livingston CARES has received \$66,220.00 in unrestricted gifts and donations from individuals and organizations and has raised \$51,846.00 from events such as the Get Celebrities (faculty) Out of Jail and the fall and spring Gumbo to Go Dinners. In 2006, the Division of Student & Campus Life contributed \$12,250.00 to help pay for transportation and to assist students with expenses on the January and March trips. We also received \$20,000.00 in grants from the New York State Legislature (Senator Dale Volker) to assist with funding trips to Mississippi. More recently, the Student Association has been contributing funds to assist students with travel expenses. In 2013, the SUNY Geneseo Student Association allocated \$2,900.00 and Phi Eta Sigma Honorary donated \$2,500.00 to assist students with travel expenses and help provide scholarships for the 2014 trips. Since 2014, the Student Association has allocated \$3,000.00 each year to assist students with grants for travel expenses. In 2020, the Student Association increased the allocation to \$7,000.00. The Geneseo Chapter of United University Professions (UUP) has also provided financial

assistance to members of the faculty and staff participating in service trips. The Center for Community also provides in-kind support and supplies to assist student volunteer and service activities. CARES funds have been used to assist student volunteers with travel expenses.

### ***Volunteer Service Trips to Harrison County, Mississippi***

Livingston CARES recruited volunteers to work on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi from 2006 through 2019. Livingston County CARES sent 973 volunteers on forty service trips beginning with the first trip in January 2006 and ending with the March 2019 trip.

### ***Harrison County Mississippi Projects Related to Hurricane Katrina***

Livingston CARES donated funds to support various projects in Harrison County, Mississippi. Including the six projects described below:

#### ***Livingston County Coalition of Churches Tools for Katrina Project***

In the spring of 2006, the Livingston County Coalition of Churches, as a Livingston CARES project, organized the Tools for Katrina Project. Tools were collected at local churches and donated by local contractors and delivered to two recovery centers in Biloxi: Hands on Gulf Coast and Volunteers on Gulf Coast. Some church related items were delivered to the Biloxi Methodist Church.

#### ***Woolmarket Youth Football League***

Harrison County Board of Supervisors President, Connie Rockco, identified the Woolmarket Youth Football League as an organization that needed assistance. CARES donated \$660.00 to purchase uniforms for five students in the program whose equipment had been destroyed by the hurricane.

#### ***ARC Connections to the Gulf Coast***

Livingston CARES board member Lyle Lehman made connections between the Livingston-Wyoming ARC and the ARC in Harrison County. Lehman met with board members of the ARC of the Gulf Coast on two trips to Mississippi and was instrumental in

securing a \$4,000.00 donation from the local ARC Foundation to Livingston CARES to forward to the ARC of the Gulf Coast to assist the Harrison County ARC programs and projects.

#### ***Woolmarket Youth Recreation Complex Project***

Supervisor Connie Rockco requested our assistance with the restoration of the youth recreation complex in her district north of Biloxi. CARES donated \$2,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a flagpole. A plaque on the pole recognizes the gift from the people of Livingston County, New York. A flag raising ceremony held on January 7, 2009 included the presentation of New York State and Livingston County flags to Harrison County. Nick Mazza, Livingston County Administrator, and Cynthia Oswald, President of Livingston County Chamber of Commerce, participated in this ceremony.

#### ***Moore Community House***

Prior to Katrina, Moore Community House in East Biloxi was the only center serving low-income families with daycare and other preschool programs such as Head Start. Katrina destroyed all but one of the buildings in the complex. After hearing the history from the director, Carol Burnett, and learning about the critical services provided by Moore Community House, the CARES Board approved the donation of funds contributed by the Geneseo Central Presbyterian Church to CARES. A donation of \$2,000.00 was made and the funds were used to purchase equipment for the classrooms in the renovated facilities.

#### ***Garden Clubs Donations***

The Geneseo Garden Club and Livonia Garden Club contributed funds to help with the recovery efforts. On the May 2009 trip to the Katrina Memorial Park in Biloxi, volunteers noticed a southern live oak had died and inquired about replacing the tree. The city and county officials agreed to accept a new tree as a gift to the City of Biloxi. In January 2010, we helped plant a new live oak and dedicated a permanent plaque in the park honoring our volunteers and the friendships that have developed between

Livingston County and Harrison County.

### ***Katrina Story Fades But Recovery Work Continues***

Livingston CARES made a commitment to continue working in Harrison County, Mississippi long after the stories faded from the media. Participants in all the service trips have learned about the destruction caused by Katrina and how important volunteer assistance to families and communities has been since the hurricane in 2005. Our initial commitment made in the fall of 2005 was to continue our work for ten years. After celebrating ten years of work on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi in 2016, Livingston CARES extended its volunteer efforts through a partnership with the Biloxi Back Bay Mission that incorporated work in a homeless day shelter, food pantry, and soup kitchen as well as construction projects serving homeless and low income families. Although our board was interested in continuing our work on the Gulf Coast, we suspended service trips to the area after our 40th trip in May 2019 to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi.

### ***Grants to Recovery Agencies in Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas***

Livingston CARES invited the campus community to donate funds for recovery efforts after the 2017 Hurricanes (Harvey, Irma, and Maria), in 2018 after Hurricane Michael, in 2019 after Hurricane Dorian, and in 2020 after Hurricanes Laurel and Delta. The funds (except for Puerto Rico) were combined and are reported under the General Hurricane Fund in the 2021 Annual Report to the Community that will be published in July 2021. Donors have the option to identify which hurricane or area where they would like their donations to be directed. To date, funds have been used to fund the critical needs of our host sites in Puerto Rico, Florida, and Texas. We purchased a portable generator (\$500.00) to be used by volunteers at recovery centers in Texas; an electric sheetrock sander (\$459.00) for the recovery center in Big Pine Key, Florida; and a kitchen commercial refrigerator (\$886.43) for use in preparing meals for the volunteers at the Campamento de Mujeres de Patillas Camp in Puerto Rico. We

will continue to work with our host sites to identify projects for possible funding from the Marge Harding Memorial Fund and the matching donations to the Puerto Rico Fund.

### ***Focus on Projects in Livingston County***

In 2009, the Livingston CARES Board agreed to look for ways to focus some of our volunteer efforts on Livingston County. A new volunteer effort was initiated in the spring of 2010, which involved seven groups of SUNY Geneseo students, who worked on seven projects in various locations throughout Livingston County, as a part of the new “Geneseo Goes to Town” volunteer day. This project was developed through the civic engagement initiatives of the GOLD leadership program. In 2011, the program was expanded and included 17 student groups that worked on different projects in almost every town in the county. Each year, the goal is to engage students in every town and village in Livingston County. In 2019, Livingston CARES, the Center for Community and Alpha Phi Omega sent teams to several towns in Livingston County. Connecting students to people and organizations throughout the county will expand opportunities for volunteer work and service. We will continue our efforts to develop collaborative programs with other local agencies to help people within the county. Due to COVID-19 and the closing of the campus and social distancing requirements, the 2020 event on Saturday, April 18 was modified and rebranded as Geneseo Cares. The 2021 event also focused on four local projects due to COVID-19 restrictions. See details in the Geneseo Goes to Town Service Day Report.

### ***Haiti Relief and Recovery***

In January 2010, the CARES board established a Haiti Relief Fund to assist in recovery efforts. Numerous college organizations and individuals from the campus and community donated monies to this fund. In November 2010, the CARES board also approved a special appeal for more contributions to purchase water purification kits to help stop the cholera epidemic. Donations totaling \$8,255.30 were received and the funds were given to the HOPE Foundation headed by the late Emeriti Professor Rose-Marie Chierici for targeted projects in

Borgne, Haiti. The projects included resettlement of two families in Port au Prince, the purchase of three teacher boxes for use in Haiti, the establishment of a nursery to grow trees for reforestation, and the purchase of over forty water purification kits. Livingston CARES sent funds to the HOPE Foundation to create water storage units at natural springs in the Borgne area of Haiti. In 2019, the Haiti Fund balance of \$707.75 was donated to the HOPE Foundation to use for emergency room supplies at the hospital in Borgne, Haiti.

### ***Project Holding Accounts***

In May 2009, the CARES board approved policies and procedures to permit student civic engagement projects to deposit funds with Livingston CARES. One major project, the Ghana Project, was approved to help with education projects in Ghana. The Ghana Project later became recognized as a student organization. In the spring of 2013, \$1500.00 was sent to assist in the building of a school in Besease, Ghana. In March 2013, \$1500.00 was donated from the Ghana fund to build a kindergarten classroom that is attached to a new grade 1-6 building. The new classroom was built for the teacher who originally donated his time to start the school in the village. The Ghana Project students also purchased school supplies to donate to the new classroom. In 2016, \$156.37 worth of school supplies were sent with two group members traveling to Ghana. The remaining balance in the Ghana Project fund was donated in April 2014 to assist the Agogo Presbyterian Hospital in Accra, Ghana with a classroom to educate area families on disease prevention. Several academic departments and the Study Abroad Office at SUNY Geneseo are involved in the Ghana project. In 2011, a second major project was established to assist with the El Sauce, Nicaragua programs that include building schools and microfinance projects. The Las Minita School was built in January of 2012 and the La Flor School was built in 2013. A microfinance project was also created to help women and businesses with loans to establish business projects in the El Sauce area. A current status report on the latest school projects is included in this Annual Report to the Community. A third project was established in

April of 2010 to provide students in the H.E.R.O.S. mentoring program with a depository for fundraising income and expenses associated with the program. Funds raised by the H.E.R.O.S. Volunteers are used to support gas reimbursements to volunteers for the trips to the schools. In the fall of 2020, the board approved a project account for the Food Security Advocates that work on food security issues under the direction of Garth Freeman in the Center for Community. The group raised \$450.00 for the Geneseo/Groveland Food Pantry and \$20.00 for the US Fund for UNICEF.

### ***Tornado Relief Fund***

In the winter and spring of 2011, the United States experienced a series of violent storms and tornadoes that destroyed entire towns and villages including Joplin, Missouri. Although we made a fundraising appeal to the campus community, only a few contributors responded with donations totaling \$533.00. The CARES board voted to transfer the funds to the Hurricane Sandy Relief fund.

### ***Flood Relief Fund***

In early September of 2011, Tropical Storms Irene and Lee devastated several areas of New York State. We established a fund to help student groups with travel expenses on two Saturday trips to the Binghamton and Owego areas. We worked with Sean Phillips (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship), Denice Szafran (Anthropology), Amy Sheldon (Geology), and Brian Sheldon (Livonia Central School) to sponsor a bus work trip on October 15, 2011. Twenty-six students and two faculty members participated in the trip. The expenses for the trip were \$643.79.

### ***Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund***

In November 2012, the CARES board established a Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund in response to the devastation of the superstorm in the New York metropolitan area. The college collected \$1675.00 through the Geneseo Foundation to assist with the Livingston CARES Hurricane Sandy Relief efforts. CARES has deposited a total of \$10,282.25 in the fund. Monies have been used to support the volunteer work trips and to assist agencies that support the recovery efforts. Livingston CARES donated

\$1,700.00 to the Bethel United Methodist Church on Staten Island to purchase cots and supplies for housing volunteers, \$1,850.00 to the Community United Methodist Church Disaster Relief Center in Massapequa for supplies to assist with housing of volunteers, and \$2,500.00 to the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for the purchase of construction equipment and supplies for the recovery efforts on the south shore of Long Island. Most recently, Livingston CARES donated \$1,400.00 to St. Bernard's Project to purchase a table saw for use in reconstruction projects. In May 2013, nineteen volunteers worked on Staten Island, and in March 2013, sixteen volunteers worked on the south shore of Long Island. The following May, a third work trip with fourteen volunteers worked on Staten Island. In January 2014, seven volunteers worked on Staten Island and in March 2014 fourteen volunteers worked at two locations on Long Island. Seven volunteers also worked on houses on Staten Island in May. In 2015, seven volunteers worked on Staten Island in January, seven volunteers worked on Long Island in March and seven volunteers worked on Staten Island in May. CARES collaborated with the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church on the fourteen work trips to Staten Island/Long Island. In 2016, seven volunteers worked on a home in Brooklyn in January and seven volunteers worked on the same house in March. Six volunteers also worked on two houses in May and all three groups worked under the supervision of Rebuilding Together NYC in collaboration with the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. In March and May of 2017, six volunteers on each of the two service trips worked under the supervision of St. Bernard's Project (SBP). In March of 2018 and March of 2019, our two teams of six volunteers again worked with SBP on projects related to recovery from Hurricane Sandy. The 2018 and 2019 teams were housed at the Geneseo Red Hook apartment in Brooklyn. In 2020, SBP suspended service projects in New York, but continued to serve families in New Jersey recovering from Hurricane Sandy. Our January 2020 service team of 5 students led by community volunteer Tim Lowmaster stayed at Camp Evans in Wall, NJ,

and worked with SPB in Ocean County, New Jersey on a house rehabilitation project. Since there are no service agencies working on Sandy projects, the remaining funds will be transferred to our general hurricane recovery fund.

### ***Hurricane Funds***

In September of 2017, three major hurricanes devastated large areas of Texas, Florida, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Livingston CARES responded by creating the 2017 Hurricane Recovery Fund. Announcements to the campus community were made immediately after Henry, Irma, and Maria occurred in September. During the period from September 2017 through March 2018, 21 individuals and organizations have contributed \$2,740.52 to the fund. At the Avon Elementary School, Hailey Smith, a fourth grade student, took the initiative to organize a special appeal to help raise money for the recovery efforts and Hailey and the Avon Parent Teacher Association presented a check for \$1,043.41 to the Livingston CARES 2017 Hurricane Fund. These funds have been used to support equipment needed by our host agencies in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. In 2019, Hurricane Dorian devastated the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama in the Bahamas. We sent an appeal to the campus community for donations and received two from members of the professional staff. We donated \$200.00 to the SBP Dorian Recovery Fund which supports recovery work in the Bahamas. We explored a possible service trip to Abaco Island but decided the trip fees of \$800.00 plus travel was too expensive for our volunteers. In the fall of 2020, the Lake Charles area of Louisiana was devastated by the Laura and the Delta hurricanes. Livingston CARES created a recovery fund and collected \$530.00 from 13 donors. These funds were donated to the Methodist Louisiana Annual Conference specifically for use in the recovery efforts from Laura and Delta. In May of 2021, four community residents traveled on a Livingston CARES service trip to Sulfur, Louisiana to work with the Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders on homes of low-income families in the area.

### ***Geneseo/Groveland Food Pantry***

In the summer of 2017, the Geneseo / Groveland



Food Pantry (The Pantry) lost its sponsoring agency when the Livingston County Coalition of Churches ceased operations. The Pantry asked Livingston CARES to become the 501 (c) 3 non-profit parent organization and the board approved a formal agreement between the two organizations. The Pantry maintained its own bank account and financial records. The agreement permitted The Pantry to seek grant funding under the auspices of the tax exempt status of Livingston CARES. In 2019, The Pantry hired a part-time manager to supervise the operations. President Tom Matthews and Treasurer Karen Bailey worked with The Pantry board to engage the services of Direct Payroll for processing the monthly payroll and billing to The Pantry for its services. Livingston CARES is technically the employer and our 2019 tax filing included the Pantry income and expenses. In the fall of 2020, the Pantry board filed the paperwork to become a separate 501 (c) 3 non-profit public charity. The IRS letter granting the tax-exempt status was received in March of 2021. Livingston CARES and the Pantry filed separate tax documents for the 2022 fiscal year.

#### ***Home Away From Home Respite Program***

The Home Away From Home Respite Program (HAFH) serves senior citizens and families with dementia and memory issues at the Geneseo Interfaith Center. HAFH was originally a VISTA project in the Center for Community. In 2017, HAFH needed a sponsoring agency in order to continue operations. Livingston CARES agreed to support the program and assume responsibility for seeking grants and funding for the program. Livingston CARES received a large grant from the Mueller Foundation and smaller, but significant, gifts from the Central Presbyterian Church and an anonymous donor. In August 2018, we conducted a search for a director and hired Sharon Leary to run the program. In 2020, Leary's responsibilities for (HAFH) were transferred to the Center for Community and the HAFH duties, salary, and benefits were covered as a part-time state employee. In 2022, management of the HAFH program was transferred from the Center for Community to Noyes Health and Christa Barrows replaced Sharon Leary as the director

of the program. The Livingston CARES project line for HAFH remains available to provide general funding of the program. A second HAFH project line was established in the summer of 2020 to accept donations to the program as a Millie Pitcher Memorial Fund. Fifteen family and friends of Millie Pitcher, who was one of the original participants in the program, contributed \$1,365.00 to the fund. See more details about the program in Christa Barrow's report included in this annual report..

#### ***Livingston CARES COVID-19 Front Line Workers Appreciation Project***

In April 2020, the board of directors approved a project to thank front-line workers in Livingston County for their service during the unfolding pandemic. Donations from board members and a grant from Wegmans were used to purchase apples, oranges, Hershey's Candy Kisses, Life Savers, individual cheese packets, pizzas, and gift bags. Between April 15 and May 15, 2020 volunteers distributed the gifts with Livingston CARES stickers and postcards thanking workers throughout the county to healthcare workers, nursing homes, fire departments, ambulance and police departments, truck drivers and multiple county service agencies. The COVID-19 fund received donations from 23 donors of \$1,143.98 and \$102.10 in food items. We also received a grant (gift card) of \$249.00 from Wegmans. Expenditures from the fund for supplies and good items were \$1,122.43 leaving a balance of \$21.55 in the account.

#### ***Livingston CARES Statement of Solidarity with the Black Community***

On June 8, 2020, the Board of Directors created and adopted a statement of solidarity with the Black community in response to the murder of Mr. George Floyd and other acts of violence against people of color in America. An excerpt from the Statement says, "As America and the world processes the tragic murder of Mr. George Floyd, and the countless other people of color who have experienced unwarranted violent policing and systemic racism, the board of directors of Livingston CARES is voicing its solidarity with the Black community. We are moved to speak out and pledge ourselves to

action that will help our communities heal through meaningful and systemic change for a more just and equitable society.

### ***Livingston County Cares for Our Healthcare Workers Thank You Project***

As the pandemic continued into December of 2020, the board of directors decided to continue our efforts to thank service workers in healthcare by giving gourmet cookies with a special sticker and thank you note. The original estimate of workers in the county was approximately 800 but research uncovered 2,600 people working at 118 sites throughout the county. Two commercial kitchens agreed to bake the cookies on March 25-26, 2021. 17 volunteer drivers distributed cookies to all the sites throughout the county. A fundraising effort in February, 2021 generated \$2,965.00 in cash and checks from 28 donors and 7 organizations and businesses and an additional \$593.39 in cookie dough donations for a total of \$3,560.39. Expenses for cookie dough, stickers for cookies, gift bags, and thank you ads in the *Pennysaver* and on the *Livingston County News Facebook* pages totaled \$3,104.21 leaving a positive net balance for the project of \$456.18.

### **Livingston CARES Disaster Relief and Recovery: Hurricane Ian, Earthquakes in Turkey & Syria and Tornadoes in Rolling Fork, MS**

In the academic year 2022-2023, Livingston CARES continued to respond to natural disasters through appeals to members and community residents for donations to provide humanitarian assistance to low-income families and communities with relief and recovery efforts. Our first appeal in September invited donors to respond to Hurricane Ian which devastated the Ft. Myers area of Florida. Six donors contributed \$550.00 and the Livingston CARES Board added \$200.00 and identified a reputable

non-profit agency, Lee BIA Builders Care, to be the recipient of the donation. Lee Builders used the funds to assist low-income families with recovery projects. In February, thirteen donors responded to a Livingston CARES Turkey and Syria Earthquake Fund appeal with donations of \$1,269.61 The Livingston CARES Board donated additional funds and made three separate donations of \$500.00 each to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement, World Central Kitchen, and Direct Relief International. Online donations were processed to each agency in order to provide immediate assistance with relief efforts. In late March, tornadoes completely destroyed the Rolling Fork area of Mississippi. The Livingston CARES Board responded with an immediate donation of \$500.00 online to Mercy Chefs to help support their efforts to provide meals to families affected by the overwhelming disaster.

## Home Away from Home Respite Program

Reported by Christa Barrows

### Background & History:

The Home Away from Home Respite Program continues to be very popular with caregivers, care receivers with dementia, and student volunteers. Over the course of the VISTA initiative from 2016 to 2018, the program grew to serve 8 – 10 caregivers/care receivers at a time. Feedback has been very positive and caregivers have expressed that the program has had a significant impact on themselves and their loved ones.

Following the VISTA grant period, a new model was needed to sustain the program. SUNY Geneseo hired a part-time Coordinator and Livingston CARES helped to secure a family foundation grant to sustain its operation. Mini-grants from the New York State Caregiver Resource Center also assisted with funding. The program thrived under Sharon Leary's leadership and was recognized with a significant award through the Arch National Respite Network. Through the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the program held virtual respite and sent home packets since meeting in person was not feasible. The value of the collaborative program to SUNY Geneseo and its students is evident.

In addition to our usual activities of crafts, games, and baking, some special activities we participated in the last 2 semesters--

- The Geneseo library-led a simple paper circuit project for our participants
- Participants and college students enjoyed an encouraging and uplifting

### Current State:

In 2022, the program underwent another evolution. SUNY Geneseo was no longer able to provide direct oversight of the program. The Noyes Caregiver Resource Center, an original partner, filled the role of overseeing day to day operations of the program. The program continues to be a collaborative effort, with many partners playing a role, including Livingston CARES, Livingston County Office for Aging, Geneseo Interfaith Center, SUNY Geneseo Psych Department, and NYS Caregiving & Respite Coalition. In the fall of 2022, the NYS Caregiving & Respite Coalition gave a mini grant of \$10,000 towards the Program Coordinator's salary. The program continues to accept donations from participating families and the community. These are used to purchase supplies needed for the program.

SUNY Geneseo students enrolled in a Neuro-Psych course serve as the program volunteers and assist in planning activities. Students participate in a 7 hour on-line training course offered by NYS Caregiving & Respite Coalition. We have 1 intern student who has been with us for both the fall 2022 & spring 2023 semesters

- magic & comedy show offered by local (Geneseo) Magic Marlin
- Lifespan brought virtual reality technology headsets, offered through Rendeever, so our participants had the experience to "go anywhere and do anything."

Outcomes for the fall 2022 semester and spring 2023 semester (through March 31) include:

- Provision of much-needed respite (8 hours per week) to Livingston County caregivers; this respite is very cost effective given the student volunteers. The program is an alternative to home-based respite. Similar hours of home-based respite through an aide service could cost up to five times as much.
- A total of 1,005 hours of respite were provided for 10 caregivers between September 27, 2022, and March 30, 2023.
- A total of 10 persons with dementia have attended the program.
- 23 students and one intern student had a meaningful volunteer experience that supports their formal education. These students volunteered a total of 466 collective hours.
- Post program surveys indicate benefits for caregivers and satisfaction with the program.
- This is the report our HAH respite center was featured in a report [NADRC | Home \(acl.gov\)](#)

### **Reflections from students, FALL 2022.**

“These past weeks working with the clients at Home Away From Home Respite Center

have continued to be an extremely rewarding and valuable experience. As the semester draws to a close, I am thankful for the opportunity I’ve had to build relationships with the seniors of the program and make a positive impact on the lives of the clients and caregivers. Working directly on care of individuals outside of a clinical setting was a great experience” (LC, Spring 2022).

“Overall, from this experience, I have learned how to apply my knowledge of neuroscience in a real world setting. From planning activities for the seniors to coming up with other smaller tasks that can still be beneficial for the seniors that struggle being as involved has been extremely rewarding. I am very grateful for this experience and I will continue to use the knowledge and skills I obtained from this experience when I go home and work with the seniors on SBHU.” (JF, Spring 2022)

“I think what was most impactful for me was going to respite every week. I loved getting to know the seniors and getting to do different types of activities with them every week, even if it was just sitting and talking to them. All of them are so sweet and I'm very excited to be going back next semester. I've learned they like games / physical activities more than they do other activities, like crafts, which is good to know moving forward.” (MC, Fall 2022)

## March 2023 Trip to Sulphur, LA

Reported by Mackenzie DeRider

Our group stayed at the Fuller Center in Sulphur Louisiana. This area was affected by two hurricanes, a tornado, and an ice storm in a matter of two years. After a long day of traveling we were immediately met with the kindest people who we found out were amazing cooks. We worked throughout the week at two houses, one almost finished and the other one that was just starting. We did a lot of priming, trimming, painting, and caulking every day. I think the group considers themselves experts in those departments now. After a few days, the group was split up, some continued to prime everything while the other group learned how to do sheetrock.

A fantastic opportunity that not a lot of groups get to see is a “Blessing of the House”, where a newly renovated house gets blessed by the homeowner's church, family, and friends. We ended up being on TV as this Blessing of the House was a bit more special than the others. We were able to meet the homeowners, a congressman, and other volunteers that worked on the house. It was a humbling experience to see the pictures of the house before and after the renovation that was built by volunteers just like ourselves.

In our free time, we explored what Louisiana had to offer. We got recommendations from the mail lady of the house we were working on, on what

restaurants to go to and what foods to try. Later on in the week, she ended up buying us Boudin as we never heard of it before. Every day, we would have dinner with the Fuller Center team and then would go to our second dinner, which involved going into town and trying the local food. Once we got off work, we would do a local attraction and would play Uno against the Fuller Center team. It was a very busy week but we wanted to make the most of it.

One of the most impactful moments for the team is taking a walk around the neighborhood of the house we were working on. Many of the lots were barren, some houses were boarded up, and some were being renovated like the one we were at, but all were affected by the many storms that hit this area of Louisiana. We heard stories from the people we were working with, we saw pictures of the devastation and we saw firsthand how much can be done if groups of people can come together and help.

I am so grateful that this was my first Livingston CARES trip as a leader, the students were amazing, and the people we met in Sulphur were the best people I have ever met. The students and I made such great memories and connections with the Fuller Center, they are still in contact with us and even sent us updated pictures of the houses we worked on.

### Trip Participants

Natuski Takata  
Jocelyn Haines  
Ayaka Machida

Kayla Anderson  
Elliot Pecora  
Kathleen Lewis

\*Mackenzie DeRider  
*\*Trip Leader*

## March 2023 Service Trip to Give Kids the World

Reported by Shea Donohue

The Give Kids the World Livingston Cares Trip in March 2023 was an unforgettable experience for not only me, but I believe for the other trip leader and our five students as well. We had a total of five shifts: two in dining services, one at an evening party, one working village attractions, and one assisting with character photos. Each of these shifts, while very different from one another, left us each with lasting memories of our interactions with the families.

For our dining shifts, we had one breakfast shift and then one dinner shift, where we each helped serve food to children and families or clear their dishes and wipe down tables in preparation for the next guests. While these shifts may not seem as important or fun as some of the others, providing these services is essential to the village and the experience families have there. Whether they are just starting their mornings, or returning from a day at the theme parks, we are one of the first or last faces/interactions of their day. We not only connected with families at these shifts but also with other volunteers from all over the country.

Our evening party was at the Pool Splash Bash, where we played with water balloons, did arts and crafts, and had dance parties with the kids. These parties are a great opportunity for parents to sit back and relax, while the kids are busy playing with each other or volunteers, and the parties are always one of our group's favorite volunteer shifts. I know two of our students participated in the water balloon battle, which was one of their favorite memories of

the trip. Seeing the excitement on some of these children's faces at these parties is so gratifying. After all the treatments or activities these children can't participate in because of their conditions and illnesses, finally getting to do something like throwing a water balloon makes them so happy. It is so moving and grounding to be part of these experiences for children who might otherwise not be able to do these things outside of the village.

Give Kids the World has several attractions, including a carousel, a train ride, two wheelchair-accessible rides, and an arcade. The day we worked attractions, we were split up amongst the various rides and received training from village staff on how to operate each of them. For children who are wheelchair-bound or have medical equipment that prevents them from riding most "normal" rides at the theme parks, the rides at GKTW give them an opportunity to experience the same thrills as their friends or siblings. Without the village or the volunteers who operate these rides, these kids may not have the opportunity to ever do that. This shift was one of my favorites, because the volunteers get to be the "conductor" on the train and experience the ride with the children.

Our final shift, and most impactful for many of our students, was assisting with Universal Character Photos. Universal sends two or three characters to the village once a week, where children and their families can have one-on-one meet and greets. Many of the children at the village may have physical or social disabilities that prevent them from

meeting these characters at the theme parks, but at the village, they are able to take their time and meet their favorite characters in a comfortable setting. The specific characters there for our shift included a minion and a troll (Despicable Me and Trolls) and the kids could not have been more excited to meet them. One girl was wheelchair bound, and wheeled herself as fast as she could up to the troll when she saw him. The excitement in her voice and body language made most of

us tear up. This was such a special moment for not only her but for each of us as well. These interactions will obviously be memorable for the children, but I will never forget hearing that girl's excited screams as she sped up to the characters. These memories are what makes volunteering at the village such an easy decision, and why anyone who can attend a Livingston Cares trip absolutely should.

### **Trip Participants**

Shelby Soper  
Halie Cardon  
Sierra Obad

Ledis Coronna  
James Ambrosio  
\*Jenna Geraghty

\*Shea Donohue  
\*Trip Leaders



### Food Security Advocates Year-End Report

2022-2023 Academic Year

#### Food Security Advocates

Food Security Advocates has shown consistent growth in its membership over the past 2022-2023 academic year, with our general membership nearly doubling for a second consecutive year. In the Fall of 2022, we hosted 10 general meetings, and 11 events, and began implementing “Fun Fact Friday” on our Instagram to engage with more people through social media.

For the Spring 2023 semester, we wanted to hone in on the educational component of our club and spent more time structuring and preparing themes for our general meetings, such as eating on a budget. We hosted 7 general meetings this semester, and 5 events (with two more planned before the end of the semester), and began member spotlight features on our Instagram to boost engagement and foster a sense of community within the club.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, The Backpack Lunches for Kids Program distributed 380 bags to 5 local primary and secondary schools in Livingston County. A \$250 grant was also given to the program by Sodexo and will be used to purchase needed supplies. This will allow us to continue to pack bags that aim to give kids healthy food choices.

Through our annual fundraising activities, we were able to raise \$247.12 throughout

the academic year. We donated \$17.00 to UNICEF from our annual Fall fundraiser selling “Boo Bags” of candy. Our fundraiser for “National Bakery Day” raised \$212.12 for the FSA account, and \$18.00 in Venmo donations to the Geneseo Groveland Emergency Food Pantry. For this event, we partnered with Sweet Arts Bakery, Geneseo, and had a \$200.00 expense for the cinnamon rolls that we handed out at the event. We also collected food items to donate to the Geneseo Groveland Emergency Food Pantry.

#### The Pantry at Geneseo

Students who chose to use The Pantry at Geneseo fill out an online form to receive a prepackaged bag of food. The bags include nonperishables and students are able to indicate if they would like eggs, dairy, and/or meat. The student interns then email the students with a time, date, and unique identifier code that they use to pick up their bag of food from MacVittie College Union Room 114 at posted times throughout the week.

During the Fall 2022 semester, the pantry continued to rely on our partnership with the Geneseo Groveland Emergency Food Pantry (GGEFP) to supply food for students. However, in the Spring 2023 semester, The Pantry transitioned to a donation-based pantry to reduce the burden on the GGEFP. We have continued our relationship with the GGEFP by working with them to



receive perishable USDA-sponsored food items through Foodlink. Many clubs and organizations have also participated in and organized food drives in our honor. With the influx of donations, The Pantry purchased, with our ambassadorship funds, a chest freezer to store more frozen items.

Pantry pickups are facilitated by GOLD leader mentors and Student-Athlete mentors during their office hours. Last Fall 2022 semester, there were 26 GOLD Leader mentors and 39 Student Athlete mentors who helped facilitate pickups. This Spring 2023 semester, we have 29 GOLD Leader mentors and 36 Student Athlete mentors. However, beginning the last week of April, Student Athlete mentors have moved locations and will not be facilitating pantry pickups in the upcoming academic year.

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, we had a total of 82 requests submitted through the online request form. In comparison, there were 51 requests submitted during the 2021-2022 academic year, showing a 60.8% increase.

In the fall '22 semester, 54 requests were filled, with sixteen individuals using the pantry more than one time. Of those students, three students used the service three times and thirteen used it twice. In the spring '23 semester, 28 students utilized the service. Out of the 28 requests, seven students utilized the service more than once. One student used the pantry three times and six used the service twice.

In order to ensure privacy and a sense of comfort, we ask patrons of the pantry if they are concerned with anonymity. This academic year, over 20% of students indicated that they were concerned with maintaining anonymity.

A new addition to The Pantry this spring '23 semester came from the Geneseo Ambassadorship Program. A submitted proposal allotted for \$5,000 in funds to be used to 1) Expand Pantry access/reach, 2) Expand the space/storage of The Pantry and 3) Secure a sustainable food source.

A freezer for perishables has been purchased, and plans to purchase shelving when space is available have been made. Conversations with Dean Sancillio have occurred, and requests to move into larger spaces are in progress, as are conversations with Chip Matthews. Once allotted a larger space, The Pantry will reorganize and be better equipped to handle donations.

Additionally, ambassadors met with pantry leaders at Monroe Community College and had conversations in regard to potential food sources and ways to move towards a “shopping” model pantry. Once a larger space has been identified, The Pantry will further the conversation about moving towards a “shopping” model.

Promotional items, such as a banner in the IRA, as well as flyers, bookmarks, and business cards, have been developed. Such promotional items should increase awareness of The Pantry.

The ambassadorship is also in contact with the Department of College Advancement to discuss opening an account on behalf of The Pantry to allow for the collection of donations via a 501(c)3.

### **Community Garden Coalition**

The Community Garden Coalition (CGC) had one active intern during the 2022 fall semester, Jaina Dinino, who got the chance to study abroad in the spring semester but will be returning in the fall semester of 2023. In Jaina's absence, the CGC brought on two new interns, first-year, Una Flynn and second-year Erin Tinklepaugh.

After a brief hiatus, the CGC was reintroduced to the community in the Fall of 2022. That semester was spent recruiting old and new members, developing new methods of tracking donations and volunteers, coordinating potential collaborations with Food Security Advocates (FSA) and the Office of Sustainability, and creating goals for the future of CGC. An information session was held in December 2022 to explain the CGC's purpose and spread community awareness about the coalition. During this time, the CGC student coordinator position was added to the FSA e-board.

Throughout the spring semester, the CGC interns had been working on reaching out to the farms and staying connected throughout the semester. A potential goal that the CGC has for next semester is to plan an in-person potluck with the local farm contacts and other organizations involved with the CGC.

On April 24th, the CGC hosted a tie-dye event. FSA had several large cans of canned beets donated to them at the beginning of the semester and as they were unable to use them, the CGC decided to use this opportunity to use food scraps from CAS, Starbucks, and the CGC's own excess items to create natural tie-dye. This event was a collaboration event with Genny Thrift who donated bags of white clothes for the purpose of dying. Through Genny Thrift and the CGC's own promotion of the event, a lot of buzz was generated and the event was overall very successful. The goal is to do this event next semester on a larger scale with Genny Thrift.

This semester, the CGC wanted to focus on increasing social media engagement. Since social media is becoming more of an informative source for students to keep track of what is going on campus rather than email, it is important that there is a heavy focus on increasing engagement. A goal for next semester is to start a biweekly mailing list so that interns can inform the local farms, community, and students about any new information from the CGC.

This year has been very successful in reintroducing the CGC to the community and in garnering interest for students on campus to get involved. The CGC hopes to hold another Natural Tie-Dye event in collaboration with Genny Thrift, have a potluck with the community members, reassess the potential of hosting another Ramen Night or other cultural dinner, and continue to host and promote volunteer opportunities in the community.

## **Fundraising for Service Trip Scholarships: Gumbo and Corn Chowder, SEFA & ROC The Day**

During the academic year 2022-2023, Livingston CARES sponsored two Gumbo to Go Dinners and a new Corn Chowder Soup for Scholarships Dinner. These events raise money for scholarships and grants to student volunteers who demonstrate a financial need in order to participate in the Livingston CARES service trips.

The first Gumbo to Go dinners were created by Philanthropic Chef Glenn McClure and offered at St. Mary's Church on November 12, 2009 and April 15, 2010. Gumbo was moved in the fall of 2010 to the Central Presbyterian Church to take advantage of the larger kitchen space. McClure continued as Gumbo Chef through 2017 when he left SUNY Geneseo to become a professor at Paul Smith's College. Chef George Hockbrueckner prepared his first Gumbo in the spring of 2017 and continues working on this semi-annual event each year. Since 2009, Livingston CARES has raised \$48,000.00 from 24 Gumbo Dinners to help support volunteers on service trips.

The combined November 3, 2022 and the March 30, 2023 Gumbo to Go income from sales of approximately 470 dinners was \$5,8338.84. The combined expense was \$2,041.98 and the net income for the student scholarship fund was \$3,791.86. Both dinners included gumbo, cornbread, and pralines. George Hockbrueckner served as the volunteer chef and Donna Kennison prepared over 940 pralines for dessert. Over 25 student volunteers from SUNY Geneseo helped prepare and serve the dinners on November 3 and March 30. Special thanks to Craig and Sharon Bolesky for their generous donations of food and to C & R Foods of Mt. Morris for the food and

supplies. Thanks also to key volunteers including Betsy Colón, Mackenzie DeRider, Brenda Donohue, Cathy Gardner, Holly Harvey, Ken Kallio, Eddie Lee, Tom & Betsy Matthews, and Nick Palumbo.

On January 30, Livingston CARES partnered with Mama Mia's owner Eddie Caruso and Chef George Hochbrueckner on a new fundraiser offering **Corn Chowder Soup** for Scholarships. Each patron received a quart of Corn Chowder and two garlic knots for \$12.00. Expenses for the dinner were \$358.87 and the income was \$1,235.46 leaving a net profit of \$876.59 for the scholarship fund to assist student volunteers on service trips. This event involved prep time of just a couple of hours and serving time from 4:00-6:00 pm for a handful of volunteers. The new event was very successful and Livingston CARES looks forward to working with Eddie Caruso and George Hochbrueckner on future Corn Chowder Dinners.

Costs for service trips have increased dramatically since the pandemic and the Livingston CARES income of \$4,668.45 from the three fundraising dinners will provide scholarship grants to assist student volunteers participating in our 2024 service trips.

### **SEFA Campaign in November 2022:**

Each November, Livingston CARES participates in the State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) managed by United Way that solicits donations through payroll deduction or one-time gifts from state employees for the following calendar year. In 2023, eleven SUNY Geneseo

employees are donating unrestricted gifts of \$1,780.00 to Livingston CARES.

**Roc The Day on November 29, 2022:**

Livingston CARES also participated in the annual ROC The Day on Giving Tuesday, November, 29. Nine donors contributed \$1,388.00 to Livingston CARES and two members of the board matched the gifts for a total income of \$2,776.00

**Livingston CARES Disaster Relief and Recovery: Hurricane Ian, Earthquakes in Turkey & Syria and Tornadoes in Rolling Fork, MS**

In the academic year 2022-2023, Livingston CARES continued to respond to natural disasters through appeals to members and community residents for donations to provide humanitarian assistance to low-income families and communities with relief and recovery efforts. Our first appeal in September invited donors to respond to Hurricane Ian which devastated the Ft. Myers area of Florida. Six donors contributed \$550.00 and the Livingston CARES Board added \$200.00 and identified a reputable non-profit agency, Lee BIA Builders Care, to be the recipient of the donation. Lee Builders used the funds to assist low-income families with recovery projects. In February, thirteen donors responded to a Livingston CARES Turkey and Syria Earthquake Fund appeal with donations of \$1,269.61 The Livingston CARES Board donated additional funds and made three separate donations of \$500.00 each to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement, World Central Kitchen, and Direct Relief International. Online donations were processed to each agency in order to provide

immediate assistance with relief efforts. In late March, tornadoes completely destroyed the Rolling Fork area of Mississippi. The Livingston CARES Board responded with an immediate donation of \$500.00 online to Mercy Chefs to help support their efforts to provide meals to families affected by the overwhelming disaster.

## Geneseo Goes to Town Report 2023

Reported by Mackenzie DeRider

On April 22, 2023, a large group of students participated in the annual Geneseo Goes to Town, a Livingston CARES supported day of service that seeks to engage students from Geneseo in volunteerism across the region. Our volunteers were able to support various organizations with activities that helped prepare for spring in Geneseo.



Some of the projects saw volunteers raking leaves, cleaning up the grounds, fixing up the amphitheater at Camp Stella Moris, beautifying the grounds at the Geneseo Interfaith Center, and gardening at Arc Glow. These hands-on activities provide opportunities for our students to engage with and learn about our community and the chance to make Geneseo a vibrant place to be.

Many thanks to the individual students who participated in the event as well as Phi Lambda Chi, the Rotaract Club, Sigma Gamma Phi, and Phi Kappa Pi.

Special thanks to Maureen Kingston, from Arc Glow, Howard Stewart from Livingston County Veterans Services and Sarah McLean, Director of the Interfaith Center, and many more people to make this event possible. Without the commitment from so many people, this project would not be possible year after year.

We look forward to building up the program and continuing its success. We welcome interest from community members across Livingston County who have ideas for projects in their neighborhoods or anyone who wants to volunteer next year.

## Linking Hands for Learning Returns to Nicaragua

After almost five years away, a group of volunteers recently traveled to Central America to once again construct a school in an impoverished, rural community, in the surrounding mountains of El Sauce, Nicaragua. Largely due to the pandemic, but also the result of a period of civil unrest, the non-profit organization *Linking Hands for Learning*, temporarily halted travel to the country. Throughout the past year, funds had been raised totaling more than \$19,000 which allowed the construction to move forward. The volunteer group from the Rochester area included a large contingent of the Vonglis family. Tom Vonglis, Jackie Vonglis, Ashley Vonglis, Peter Vonglis, and Deb (Vonglis) Lamanna volunteered, as well as Jake and Heather Ayers. Rob and Jeanine Lupisella and their daughters, Elise and Caroline once again traveled there, along with area college students Jason Hofmann, Sawyer Tehan, and Paige Smith.



Volunteer Elise Lupisella with a few of the students who will be attending the new school in El Carrizo.



At the celebration, five hardworking Vonglis volunteers, stand in front of a wall which they helped to build.

Each traveling volunteer was asked to raise at least \$300 towards construction costs and to personally pay for their own travel expenses, which included room and board, as host families in El Sauce take the group in during the trip. Volunteers typically raise far more for construction than the minimum required. When all expenses are accounted for, a trip typically costs each volunteer, with airfare included, approximately \$2,000. The teams' collective enthusiasm resonated throughout the construction process even with an arduous hour and a half drive to the construction site of El Carrizo.

The first day was climactic as the truck arrived at the site, where a large number of community members were awaiting the teams' arrival. Men, women, and most importantly the young children who will be attending the new school clapped and waved as the team entered the area. After a few words together with the community and a welcoming from their leader named Bernardo, the challenging task of digging the foundation began in earnest. The volunteers and community members quickly found themselves working hand-in-hand together in the hot sun. When it became apparent that a large tree root needed removal from the foundation path, it didn't take community

members long to realize that in addition to the need for a pick ax, their favorite tool of choice - the machete, was also necessary. The tree root was eliminated and the workers were well on their way to completing the difficult task of digging the foundation.



Heather Ayers shovels stone from the truck under the watchful eye of her fellow volunteers.

Several days into the construction, due to the difficult road conditions, numerous volunteers would embark on a thirty-minute hike to and from the site, rather than take the bumpy ride in the back of the truck. As they walked along the narrow path they were often greeted by community members, who were heading to or from work in their fields. At times, children were just off the trail spying on their approach. On one occasion, a woman graciously presented the volunteers with a sack of oranges, a gift from the community, and a token of appreciation for a hard days' work. Their level of gratitude for what volunteers were doing, and how it was being done, not for them, but with them, was greatly appreciated.

Collaborating with the community volunteers is always special. The resourcefulness, grit, and perseverance of the Nicaraguan people are admirable. Digging holes and trenches, bending rebar, cutting wire, sifting sand, moving blocks, shoveling, and hauling sand and stone are just a few of the many tasks needing completion. The level of involvement from the inhabitants of El Carrizo was exceptional, as each day numerous volunteers came to work alongside the visiting volunteers. Hauling water from a well, a good distance from the site, was one challenging task that the community fully embraced on their own, making sure there was always enough water to make concrete and mortar, as well as to moisten the block which had already been set. On numerous occasions, community members would bring oranges to the site, which resulted in a short break to consume the refreshing fruit.



Jake Ayers carries the gift of oranges down the path towards the truck.

# **Individual and Organization Contributors to Livingston County CARES**

**2005 – 2023**

## **Individual Contributors to Livingston CARES (2005 – present)**

Christa Aldrich	Anna Beltramine	Rachel Campbell
Deborah & James Allen	Eliana Bernard	James Carlisle
Alberto Alonso	Alfred & Cheryl Berner	Colleen Callahan
Gerard & Kathleen Alonzo	James A. Boiani	Tyler Carrick
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Barbara Battaglia	Sherri L. Bush	Betsy Colón
Denise Battles	Bruce & Rona Byers	Stephanie Crissman
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		Andrew Csont



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Maryellen Felter	Thomas Griffin	Connie Hurlburt

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Wes Kennison	Timothy & Nancy Lowmaster	Susan McKenna
Thomas Kilcullen	Guy & Isabelle Lupisella	Doug McKenzie
Teresa Jeanne Kilian	Sandra Macaulay	James & Shirley McNally
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Nick Palumbo	Diane Rutigliano	Robert & Nicole Stewart
Kylie Papangelos	Leonard Sancilio	Albert & Carol Stockslader
Dean Parnell	The Sancilio Family	Margaret Stolee
Ron & Joyce Peterson	John Saugy	George Sullivan
Megan Petty	Michael Sauter	Michael Teres
David & Mary Anne Pitcher	Paul & Barbara Schmied	Tom Thompson
Brianna Pollard	Gail Serventi	Charlotte Torres
Dianne & Terry Price	Suzanne Sharp	Jane Towne

Gary Towsley	Joyce Wechsler	Sarah Yo
Kathleen Trainor	Julia Wertheim	Michele & F. Nicholas Zuck
George & Beth Traver	Carol Williams	
Karen & Kirk Vanderbilt	Tom & Nancy Wilson	
James & Barbara Walker	Tom Wilson	
Edward C. Wallace	John Wolf	
R.D. Wayland-Smith	David & Julie Woods	
Linda Weaver	Wilbur Wright	

**Business, Community and Student Organization  
Contributors to Livingston CARES  
(2005 – present)**

Amazon Smile Foundation		CUNY SEFA
Alpha Sigma Tau (Epsilon Rho Chapter)	Center for Community – SUNY Geneseo	Dansville Free Methodist Church: Maureen Paulman
Another Time Antiques – Barbara Boyce	Central Presbyterian Church	Encore Salon
Avantax Wealth Management, Inc. Avon Rotary, Inc.	Class of 2002 – SUNY Geneseo Class of 2004 – SUNY Geneseo	Excellus Health Plan, Inc.
Benevity	College Democrats - SUNY Geneseo	Genesee Valley Pennysaver
Bottom Line Bookkeeping	College Senate -SUNY Geneseo	Geneseo Central School District
Campus Auxiliary Services	College Senate -SUNY Geneseo	Geneseo Foundation
Canandaigua Teachers Association C & R Foods	CSEA - Geneseo Chapter	Geneseo Garden Club Geneseo Rotary

Geneseo Summer Festival	Livingston Ladies Golf Association	St. Michael's Church
Geneseo United Methodist Church	Livingston-Wyoming ARC	Student & Campus Life – SUNY Geneseo
Golden Key Honor Society	Livonia Garden Club	Student Association – SUNY Geneseo
Good Search Internet	MorrisonLiving.com	TIAA Johannes AGM Koomen
Habitat for Humanity - SUNY Geneseo	Multicultural Program Board – SUNY Geneseo	Ultimate Cabling Services LLC
Hurricane Technologies	Nassau Residence Hall - SUNY Geneseo	United Presbyterian Stone Church
Inter-Greek Council - SUNY Geneseo	Network for Good	United Way of the Greater Capital Region, Inc.
Interfaith Center – SUNY Geneseo	Pavilion Central Ski Club	United Way of Greater Rochester
Japanese Culture Club - SUNY Geneseo	Rochester Rotary Charitable Trust	UUP - Geneseo Chapter
KeyBank Rewards	Royal Lady Knights - SUNY Geneseo	Vanguard Charitable
Kiwanis Club of Geneseo Inc.	Senator Volker Campaign Committee	Wegmans Food Market
Lanpher Financial Group	Sociology Club - SUNY Geneseo	Wolf Family Dentistry
Livingston County News		

**Individual and Organization Contributors to the  
Nicaragua Schools Project  
(2005 – present)**

Jeanne & Whitney Abbot	Susan B. Allison	Jessica Apthorpe
Accu-Vest Planning Inc.	Bruce Amey	Melissa S. & Christopher M. Arber
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Keith W. Baker	Roger Boone	Canandaigua Teachers Association
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## **Individual and Organization Contributors to the COVID-19 Frontline Workers Fund (2020 – present)**

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**Individual and Organization Contributors to the  
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Access Opportunity Programs	Larry & Fran Blackman	College Union & Activities
Allegany Hall – SUNY Geneseo	Kenneth Book A.C. Bowerson	Olga Iris Colon
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Jeff & Liz Argentina		Abbi Cox
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Rebecca Benner in honor of Rose-Marie Chierici		Alexander Decker

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Marlene Hamilton Paula M. Henry	Nassau Hall – SUNY Geneseo	David & Francisca Tamarin
Brad & Debra Hill	Network for Good	Michael Teres
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**Individual and Organization  
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(2012 – present)**

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James & Mary Blye	Brad & Debbie Hill	Niagara Hall Council
Catherine & Bob Bonfiglio	Rachel Howell O'Neill	Eileen O'Brien
Central Presbyterian Church	Elizabeth C. Johnson	Onondaga Hall
Alessandro & Rose-Marie Chierici	Kathleen & Phil Jones	Anna & Thomas Pastore
Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority	Kenneth & Colleen Kallio	Leonard & Sharon Sancilio
Mary Theresa Driscoll	Lawrence & Carol Kane	Amanda & Michael Sauter
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Joseph J. & Imelda Gallagher	Lyle & Margaret Lehman	Beth Standish
Geneseo Foundation	Maria Lima	Myra Tate Herlihy
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	Georgie & Andrew Macauley	Zeta Be

**Individual Contributors to Puerto Rico Recovery Fund  
(2017 – present)**

Renee Collette Allen	Stephen William Chaparro	Betsy Colón
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Ken Cooper	Carol Koziel	Bryan O. Rivera
Mikaela Freeman	Eddie Lee	Tashi Sherpa
Danielle Brooke French	Mary Munguia	
Gabriel Iturbides	Carolyn & Jordan Nieves	
	Matthew Emilio Nill	

## **Individual and Organization Contributors to the Hurricane Recovery Fund (2005 – present)**

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Kristy Barkan	Robert & Joan Ellison	Susan Kim
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Ganie DeHart	Jennifer Guzman	Lila Briggs McEwen

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Beth Standish

Student Association –  
SUNY Geneseo

Madelyn Tavernier

Nicole Voci

Helen Wadsworth

James Walker

## **Individual Contributors to Earthquake Relief in Turkey & Syria (2023)**

Anonymous

Omar A

bazookalews

Buy Express

Central Presbyterian  
Church - Geneseo

Erin Crowell

Angela & Mark Ellis

Jessica Gilbert Overland

Scott Giorgis

Caroline Haddad

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Tom & Betsy Matthews

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Thomas Wilson

## Livingston CARES Trips History

### Hurricane Katrina Service Trips

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Community Members</b>	<b>Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni</b>
January 4-10, 2006	33	14	15	4
March 10-18, 2006	55	51	0	4
May 21-27, 2006	8	5	2	1
January 7-13, 2007	20	13	4	3
February 18-24, 2007	23	0	23	0
March 10-17, 2007	49	44	1	4
May 16-23, 2007	16	10	0	6
January 5-12, 2008	25	19	3	3
February 16-23, 2008	10	0	9	1
March 14-22, 2008	55	51	0	4
May 18-24, 2008	15	8	5	2
January 3-10, 2009	25	13	6	6
February 15-21, 2009	11	0	11	0
March 14-21, 2009	55	52	0	3
May 17-23, 2009	28	23	2	3
January 3-10, 2010	29	18	6	5
March 13-20, 2010	59	54	0	5
May 16-22, 2010	20	17	1	2
January 9-15, 2011	27	20	3	4
March 13-19, 2011	28	24	0	4
May 15-21, 2011	27	20	2	5

January 8-15, 2012	28	23	3	2
March 13-19, 2012	28	24	0	4
May 13-19, 2012	27	22	3	2
January 13-19, 2013	21	18	2	1
March 11-17, 2013	28	24	0	4
May 19-25, 2013	14	12	0	2
January 12-18, 2014	20	18	0	2
March 16-22, 2014	21	18	1	2
May 19-24, 2014	13	11	1	1
January 11-17, 2015	21	16	1	4
March 15-21, 2015	21	18	1	2
May 17-23, 2015	13	11	1	1
January 10-19, 2016	22	17	1	4
March 13-19, 2016	21	18	0	3
May 15-21, 2016	13	11	1	1
January 8-14, 2017	20	17	1	3
March 11-18, 2017	14	12	0	2
May 14-20, 2017	5	4	1	0
March 16-23, 2019	5	4	1	0
<b>40 Trips</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>108</b>

## Hurricane Relief and Recovery Trips Since 2018

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Community Members</b>	<b>Faculty/ Staff Alumni</b>
January 7-13, 2018 TX	13	10	1	2
January 7-13, 2019 FL	13	11	2	0
March 10-17, 2018 PR	10	7	2	1
March 11-17, 2018 TX	8	7	0	1
March 11-17, 2018 FL	7	5	1	1
May 14-29, 2018 PR	9	7	0	2
January 12-19, 2019 FL Keys	14	10	1	2
January 12-19, 2019 PR	14	12	2	0
January 12- 19, 2019 TX	13	11	1	1
March 16-23, 2019 FL Keys	7	6	1	0
March 16-23, 2019 PR	14	11	3	0
May 18-25, 2019 FL Keys	5	4	1	0
May 18-25, 2019 PR	13	9	1	3
January 11-18, 2020	14	8	3	2
May 23-29, 2021 LA	4	0	4	0
March 11-18, 2023 LA	7	6	0	1
<b>17 Trips</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>

## Hurricane Sandy Trips to Brooklyn, Staten Island & Long Island and New Jersey

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Community Members</b>	<b>Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni</b>
January 13-19, 2013	19	12	2	5
March 12-17, 2013	16	8	6	2
May 19-25, 2013	7	5	1	1
January 12-18, 2014	7	6	1	0
March 16-22, 2014	14	7	6	1
May 18-24, 2014	7	6	0	1
January 11-17, 2015	7	6	0	1
March 15-21, 2015	7	6	1	0
May 17-23, 2015	6	5	0	1
January 10-19, 2016	7	6	0	1
March 13-19, 2016	7	6	0	1
May 15-21, 2016	5	4	0	1
March 12-18, 2017	6	5	0	1
May 14-20, 2017	6	5	1	0
March 11-17, 2018	6	5	1	0
March 16-23, 2019	5	4	1	0
January 12-18, 2020	6	5	1	0
<b>17 Trips</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>

## Give Kids the World

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Community Members</b>	<b>Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni</b>
January 10-16, 2010	13	12	0	1
January 10-16, 2011	14	12	1	1
March 11-17, 2012	14	13	0	1
March 11-17, 2013	14	13	0	1
March 16-22, 2014	14	13	0	1
March 14-21, 2015	14	13	0	1
March 13-19, 2016	14	13	0	1
March 12-18, 2017	14	13	0	1
March 10-17, 2018	14	13	0	1
March 16-23, 2019	14	13	0	1
March 12-18, 2023	7	5	0	2
<b>11 Trips</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>

## Other Trips

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Trip Participants</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Community Members</b>	<b>Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni</b>
2008 March Ohio Outing Club Trips	20	20	0	0
2012 Sept 21 Southern Tier Flood Relief	24	22	0	2
2014 Weekend of Service in Rochester	10	10	0	0
2015 Mar 15-21 Stony Point, NY	5	5	0	0



2015 Feb 20-22 Weekend of Service in Rochester	7	7	0	0
2016 Feb 19-21 Weekend of Service in Rochester	8	8	0	0
2017 March 12-18 Detroit, MI	7	6	0	1
<b>8 Trips</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

### Summary of All Livingston Cares Trips January, 2006 - May, 2020

	Total Participants	Students	Community Members	Faculty/ Staff/ Alumni
TOTAL: 94 Trips	1,533	1,211	160	160

**Livingston CARES Financial Information**  
(Since Inception)

<b>Program/Project</b>	<b>Contributions/Income</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
Service Trips	\$693,438	\$781,207
Trip Scholarships	\$47,814	\$47,295
Athletic Funds	\$6,584	\$6,584
Community Resource Network	\$777	
COVID 19 Fund	\$5,778	\$4,596
Father Gordinier Fund	\$8,000	\$3,000
Food Pantry	\$3,875	\$3,875
Food Security Advocates	\$1,412	\$1,294
General Disaster Relief Fund	\$6,266	\$1,000
General Hurricane Fund	\$4,168	\$4,018
Geneseo Goes to Town	\$300	
Ghana Project	\$7,484	\$7,484
Government Grants – Hurricane Katrina	\$20,000	\$20,000
H.A.F.H. Respite Program	\$51,098	\$40,887

Haiti Relief Fund	\$11,803	\$11,803
H.E.R.O.E.S. Project	\$1,261	\$1,118
Hurricane Relief Fund	\$1,227	\$1,480
Hurricane Sandy Fund	\$13,091	\$12,685
Italy Earthquake Fund	\$628	\$623
Japan Relief Fund Donations	\$682	\$1,000
Kentucky Tornadoes Fund	\$1,374	\$1,417
Millie Pitcher Memorial Fund	\$1,500	
MLK Day of Service	\$5,305	\$5,046
Nicaragua Project	\$167,507	\$158,841
Puerto Rico Fund	\$2,113	\$2,113
Sandy Relief Fund	\$938	\$938
Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund	\$1,962	\$2,000

<b>Fundraising, Membership, Management &amp; General</b>		
	<b>Contributions/Income</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
Fundraising	\$88,352	\$83,470
Interest Income	\$2,181.82	N/A

Management & General Expenses	N/A	\$18,579
Membership/Marketing	\$1,265	\$3,254

<b>Volunteer Totals – Since Inception</b>		
Volunteer Contributions	Calculation	Amount
Service Trip Volunteers	1526 - trip fees (\$200 - \$600)	\$587,530
Donated Volunteer Hours	1526 x 40 hours = 61,040 hours x \$22.55/hr (2006) to \$29.95/hr (2023)	\$1,554,778.40
Total LCC Volunteer Contributions	1,526 Volunteers	\$2,142,308.40

## Kudos and Thanks

Kudos and Thanks Livingston CARES wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their special contributions and assistance with the trips, projects, and programs.

- Nick Palumbo for his service as Vice-President of Livingston CARES and for his oversight, systemization, and coordination of the information on the disaster relief and recovery efforts and the Gumbo to Go and Corn Chowder scholarship fundraising dinners. Special thanks for managing the details of the three 2023 service trips.
- Mackenzie DeRider for serving as Livingston CARES Secretary and for her numerous contributions to the effective running of meetings and events, for supervising the student interns, for leading the March Service Trip to Sulfur, Louisiana, and for her leadership and support of student volunteerism and service.
- Karen Bailey for her continuing support and service as the Livingston CARES Treasurer and for tracking our income and expenses and preparing the financial reports for board meetings and the annual tax documents.
- Extra special thanks to Mackenzie for creating and sharing the monthly newsletters and for drafting the 2023 Annual Report to the Community.
- Julie Matthews for volunteering her time and expertise in preparing our tax returns.
- President Denise Battles and the College for support of the Livingston CARES programs
- 2023 Service Trip Leaders: Special thanks to SUNY Geneseo alumni who volunteered to lead all three service trips: MacKenzie DeRider (Class of '20) for the Sulfur, Louisiana trip, Shea Donohue (Class of '18) and Jenna Geraghty (Class of '20) for the Give Kids the World trip to Kissimmee, Florida, and Dan Martin (Class of '16) for the upcoming May trip to Puerto Rico.
- Phil Natoli for exemplary service as a member of the board of Livingston CARES for thirteen years from 2010-2023 and as a volunteer and leader on ten service trips to Mississippi and Florida.
- Michael Taberski, Vice President, Student and Campus Life, and Lenny Sancilio, Dean of Students, for enabling Center for Community staff members to help create and sustain Livingston CARES projects and programs
- Thanks to Chef George Hochbrueckner for preparing the two Gumbo Dinners and the Corn Chowder Dinner. Thanks also to Mama Mia's owner Eddie Caruso for hosting the Corn Chowder event. Thanks to Donna Kennison for making the pralines and special thanks to Craig and Sharon Bolesky for their generous donations of food and to C & R Foods of Mt. Morris for the food and supplies. Thanks to the Central Presbyterian Church for letting Livingston CARES use their facilities every year for Gumbo. Thanks also to key volunteers including Betsy Coln, Mackenzie DeRider, Brenda Donohue, Cathy Gardner, Holly Harvey, Ken Kallio, Eddie Lee, Tom & Betsy Matthews, and Nick Palumbo. Thanks to the Alpha Phi Omega, the Rugby team, our student board members and many other individuals that helped out with Gumbo to Go.



**THE MISSION OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY CARES IS TO HELP COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS LOCALLY, REGIONALLY, STATEWIDE, NATIONWIDE, AND GLOBALLY IN HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS, INCLUDING DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY EFFORTS. LIVINGSTON COUNTY CARES PROVIDES A CENTRAL REPOSITORY FOR RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT.**

