

NTID Students Reach Out to Africa, Thailand, and the Rochester Community

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by Jazzy Jones

(Jazzy is graduating this May with Bachelors Degree in Business and Communications from NTID/RIT)

“Save Darfur” Project

“How would you feel if you found out that a radical militia group had a mission to eliminate all deaf people?” Students at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) enrolled in Intercultural Communication considered this question.

This idea is not so far-fetched in Darfur, a region in Sudan, Africa. Men, women, and children are being beaten, raped, and killed by radical a militia group due to the color of their skin and/or their tribal affiliation. These people have been pushed out of their homes and forced to seek refuge in concentration camps far away. Surprisingly, not many people are aware of this crisis, which President Bush has labeled as “genocide.”

As part of National Youth Service Day and Global Youth Service Day this spring, NTID students Jason Cole, Nicholas Curtain, Holly Dzimidas, and Jazzy Jones teamed up to coordinate a wristband sale that raised \$120. The monies will be used for food, water, and medical supplies to the people of Sudan.

Tsunami Card Project

Students in the Organizational Communication and the Deaf Employee class organized a fundraising project to help some deaf students from Thailand who had visited NTID as part of a PEN-International grant. NTID students set up a “mock company” to raise money for their deaf friends. Scott Wright, Sherrelle Gulley, Steven Rosner, Ray Sengbush, and Janell Wagstaff designed notecards. Wright and Gulley designed individual cards, and the class produced a card with input from all five class members. ASL Stamp, Inc. gave the students written permission to use one of their images on the card.

The students sold their notecards at a community event as well as to participants at an NTID-sponsored panel discussion, and within four weeks raised \$150, which will be used to provide relief to deaf tsunami victims and their families.

Note card designed by: Ray Sengbush & Scott Wright

A. Davis, S. Gulley, S. Rosner, on “Three Kings Night”

R. Sengbush, J. Wagstaff & S.

Wright. (Top symbol used with

Permission from ASL Stamp.)

Open Door Mission Project

Students in another section of Organizational Communication and the Deaf Employee focused on the Rochester community for their National Youth Service Day project. Andrew Pritchard, William (Gil) McWhorter, Robert Clauer, Laurel Ann MacLeod, Jason Mordon, Ana (Julissa) Perez, and Kushalpal Singh conducted a clothing drive to benefit the Open Door Mission, a Rochester-based organization that provides food, clothing, and shelter to homeless individuals in the community. Perez designed informational

posters while Clauer and other classmates assembled donation boxes.

Talking to individual students, floor by floor in the dorms on campus, they collected more than 10 huge boxes of clothing for donation.

Ana (Julissa) Perez, William (Gil) Andrew Pritchard, Robert Clauer, Jason Morden

McWhorter, Laurel Ann MacLead, doing a teambuilding activity before starting the

& Kushapal doing a teambuilding a clothing drive.

activity before starting the clothing

drive.

"That project was a good way to communicate with other people in your group and is a good way to give back to your community," says Andrew Pritchard.

"I have learned to become more caring and appreciate the things I have in my life," agrees William (Gil) McWhorter. "Every time I finish doing a community service project I feel better about myself."

McWhorter and fellow student Scott Wright received the Dr. Robert Frisina Award for their leadership and efforts to provide links between deaf and hearing individuals. They will be recognized with scholarship money and with a plaque at an award ceremony in the fall.