

## Students help those hit by storm

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Families trying to get back on their feet from last year's hurricanes received help Friday from Louisiana students involved in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America program.

Students, teachers, advisers, parents and other helpers were on hand to provide boxes of provisions to families with vouchers for the program, the result of a two-year fundraising effort by 32 FCCLA chapters in the state, who then partnered with Feed The Children to distribute goods.

"The satisfaction I get is in helping people," said Daisha Cox, of Natchitoches, a junior who has taken a more active role in her third year with FCCLA. "I'm also learning more and getting experience as a leader."

"It's a two-year project, but this last year we've had the most emphasis on it throughout the state," Executive Director Delta Gary said. "The students got into a higher speed, with a lot of different fundraising projects."

At least \$7,000 was needed for a truck to bring supplies to Louisiana for the

program, and Louisiana students raised \$9,484.69. Youngsville Middle School led the way, raising more than \$2,694, with South Beauregard High next at \$1,511.

"Those two were named two of the top 15 producers in the nation," said Gary. "I think the kids really related to people who've had to deal with hurricanes."

Other Acadiana area participating chapters were Comeaux, Erath, Lafayette High, Midland, North Central and Centerville.

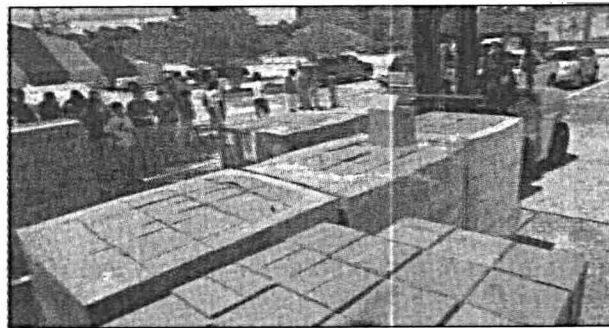
"Words can't express what it's like to help them," said Jaret Gary, who partnered with fellow Youngsville Middle student Ross Connor on

fundraising projects like a volleyball game against faculty and a 3K run. "We've had things like shingles damaged before, but nothing like the people in Erath have had."

Participants were given one, two or three vouchers, depending upon the number of people in the home to be fed. They were given boxes of food, hygiene products or personal care products in a drive-through setting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Pinhook Road.

The Second Harvest Food Bank provided warehouse space to assist in the distribution schedule.

A similar procedure will be followed in two weeks in Cameron Parish.



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Boxes of supplies are stacked up as Louisiana members of FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) wait to hand them out to prospective hurricane victims Friday at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Lafayette.

