

Power of helping survives blizzard

■ Volunteers in the Campus Red Cross pitch in at area shelters.

BY BRICE SULLIVAN
Staff Reporter

When a severe snowstorm hit Lincoln, leaving thousands of people without power, members of the campus community hit back by volunteering to help those in need.

Between 40 and 50 members of the Campus Red Cross at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln joined the Lancaster County chapter in providing aid to more than 500 people at the four shelters that were set up in town.

"The students who helped as volunteers were all very, very helpful," said Randall Jones, the executive director of the Lancaster County Red Cross.

Students helped by coordinating staff, setting up shelters and assisting those who arrived at shelter doors in need of a warm place to stay, he said.

"They did everything," Jones said.

Brianna Hooi, president of Campus Red Cross, said she was amazed at the motivation of the student volunteers to help, including those who were without power themselves.

Michelle Decker, recording secretary for the group, was in charge of contacting members to set up volunteer slots. She said the members she reached were all eager to help, and many called friends who were not involved with the organization to lend a hand.

Another member of the campus chapter, Kim Dvorak, said she learned from the experience while helping prepare food and check in guests at the Christ's Place Church shelter, 1111 Old Cheney Road.

"I learned just how useful a little bit of your time can be for other people," Dvorak said.

She said she realized the severity of the situation when she saw the many children among the 30 people who stayed that night.

However, Dvorak described the atmosphere of the shelter as warm and fairly carefree.

"Volunteerism is an American thing."

RANDALL JONES
county Red Cross director

Jones agreed.

"People can generally adapt to different environments," Jones said. "Those at the shelters were accepting of the situation and sometimes quite upbeat."

Visitors and volunteers at one shelter helped celebrate the birthday of a 92-year-old woman, who had been forced from her home by the storm.

Jones said the Red Cross provided essential items at the shelters, including clothing, food and comfort items such as toothpaste and combs. Medical attention was given to those who suffered injuries or health problems from the storm.

Despite the Red Cross's work, Jones said the organization would have had a more difficult time without help from Lincolinites.

Jones said neighbors helping neighbors was a big reason for the success in getting through the storm.

"Volunteerism is an American thing," Jones said. "You don't find anything quite like it anywhere else in the world."

Lincoln residents will need a month or two to recover from the storm, Jones said. It's still important to remember that members of the community still will need help with debris removal, food loss because of the power outages, and financial aid.

The Red Cross will continue to help meet the needs of those affected by the storm by looking at individual cases.

The Campus Red Cross has 150 members, including 90 new members this year. Students interested in joining the organization or in learning first aid or CPR, or who have questions about how they can help those affected by the storm, can call the Lancaster County Red Cross at (402) 441-7997, or the Campus Red Cross through the University Health Center at (402) 472-7440.

King calls for social action

KING from page 1

"These are the words that have haunted me all my life," King said. "I developed a social consciousness well before I met Martin Luther King Jr."

After King married her husband, they moved to Montgomery, Ala., where they participated in nonviolent protests against racism and segregation.

She said that when she saw empty buses pass her house during the Montgomery city bus boycotts led by Rosa Parks, she realized the power of nonviolent social protest.

Although responses to the Kings' nonviolent protests included violent threats, imprisonment and bombings, King said hers and her husband's faith in God, and message of "fighting hate with love," won the

"I developed a social consciousness well before I met Martin Luther King Jr."

CORETTA SCOTT KING
widow of slain civil rights leader

civil rights battle.

When their house was bombed after the bus boycotts, King said, her husband's response of nonviolence helped future civil rights crusades.

"Victory was assured (in the fight for civil rights) by the seeds of faith, courage and unconditional love Martin showed that day," King said.

King called on America's youth to embrace the ideals of her late hus-

band, and work toward nonviolent social changes in racism, homophobia, sexism and other forms of discrimination.

"It wasn't so long ago that a generation of young people answered the call and tore down walls of segregation," King said.

"Come forward, young people — come forward not with anger and bitterness, but with a healing and hopeful heart."

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Officials tour campus, assess storm carnage

From Staff Reports

Officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency toured the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Thursday to assess damage caused by the recent snowstorm. Their visit, including talks with administrators about damage, continues today.

The UNL is eligible to receive FEMA funds, which will help pay the university's out-of-pocket expenses for storm cleanup, said James Main, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance.

But no funds have been given to the university yet, he said. "Right now, it's show and tell," Main said.

FEMA officials will decide whether to give UNL emergency funding and how much after their

visit is finished and UNL has filed its damage claims.

The university will file its first, 20-page claim with FEMA Monday, detailing employee overtime pay and the cost of chain saws and other cleanup equipment, Main said. That claim's amount is unknown, he said. The dollar value of UNL's property loss from the storm will not be included.

UNL will submit another claim detailing losses in its once green, leafy assets, Main said.

FEMA funds will be available to pay for replacement trees in the state, he said, but that doesn't guarantee that UNL will receive money. If the university doesn't receive sufficient funds, it may ask the administration to find money elsewhere, such as the state Legislature, Main said.