



## Katrina Compassion Awards

***Xavier University of Louisiana***

**New Orleans, LA  
3,091 Students**

Despite significant hurricane damage, Xavier University was able to mount several remarkable hurricane relief efforts. When, due to decreased enrollment caused by Katrina, a residence hall was not needed by Xavier students, it was made available to house 500 volunteers from outside groups assisting in the rebuilding of New Orleans. Public Relations students led a successful campaign to recruit students from minority- serving colleges to come to New Orleans to assist in the rebuilding effort. This campaign resulted in over 1,500 students of color participating in alternative break programs which gutted houses, re-posted street signs, and removed debris in hard-hit neighborhoods.

Overall, an estimated 65 percent of Xavier's students took part in hurricane relief and recovery efforts. Some 800 Xavier students participated in monthly community clean-ups, which gutted 11 houses, painted a school, cleaned up three neighborhoods, planted many trees, and delivered hundreds of food boxes to needy families. Pre-medicine students assisted the New Orleans Health Department in documenting residents' medical histories on CDs, which facilitated evacuation and treatment of many residents. Pharmacy and pre-medical students conducted blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose screenings. Communications School students recorded oral histories of New Orleans residents in order to preserve their experiences during and after Katrina as well as to preserve neighborhood histories.