



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2008

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Cal Poly Student Sarah Phillips Participated in United Way Alternative Spring Break 2008

– 500 Spring Break Volunteers Help Rebuild Three Communities Across the Country –

San Luis Obispo, CA – Cal Poly student, Sarah Phillips, spent her spring break in Southwestern Louisiana as part of United Way's ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK (ASB) 2008. United Way brought young adults from all across the country who wanted to dedicate their spring break to community service work in communities along the Gulf Coast and in Detroit, Michigan.

"The concept of "Living United" happens on a multitude of levels; from families and communities to states and countries," said Rick London, CEO of United Way of San Luis Obispo County. "We are most grateful to have our own Sarah Phillips representing our county on a national level, for this most worthy cause."

The 100 Alternative Spring Break participants in Louisiana were divided into groups of 7-8, each venturing to different areas of Lake Charles. Sarah, a fourth year Microbiology major at Cal Poly who regularly volunteers with the Public Health Department, spent her spring break in Moss Bluff, Louisiana, making improvements on an 80 year-old woman's house and yard. "Seeing the joy in Ms Audrey's eyes made us proud of the work we had done," Sarah said of her group. The woman's neighbors even wanted to come see the house. Each night, participants were also treated to activities such as going to the beach, karaoke, live music, and tasting crawfish. "United Way connected so many great people from all different backgrounds in doing something we all enjoyed," Sarah said.

“This year, we continue to build on the groundswell of compassion and commitment of Generation Y.,” stated Brian A. Gallagher, President and CEO of United Way of America. “There’s not a better connection that we could make than between people who need help and people who can help. This year, we’re extending service projects beyond the Gulf Coast because there are communities across the country that have pressing needs that can be addressed through thoughtful, focused and committed volunteer work.”

During the past two years, United Way teamed with corporate partners and local communities across the Gulf Coast to mobilize the power, energy and dedication of young adults to help rebuild after the devastation of Hurricanes Ivan, Katrina and Rita. This year, young adults joined United Way in one of three host communities:

- Detroit, MI – ASB volunteers worked in conjunction with local partners on such critical tasks as building affordable housing, improving the quality of child care centers, and building ramps to provide people with disabilities a safe means of leaving and returning to their homes.
- Hancock County, MS – Along the Gulf Coast, volunteers helped to rebuild homes and communities severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina.
- Lake Charles, LA – Hurricane Rita, the fourth strongest hurricane ever to make landfall in the United States, arrived there in 2005. Volunteers helped to rebuild homes and community agencies, while also trying to return a sense of normalcy to communities still suffering from the lingering impact of the storm.

As part of their crucial support of United Way’s campus engagement efforts, Deloitte and FedEx, two United Way National Corporate Leaders, are lead sponsors of ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK 2008, and CheapTickets joined them as a promotional partner supporting the program with travel.

To follow the efforts of those who participated in ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK 2008 log on to: <http://blog.unitedway.org/asb>. For more information about United Way and ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK, log on to www.unitedway.org.

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About United Way

United Way is a national network of nearly 1,300 local organizations that advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key building blocks of education, income and health. United Way of America is the national organization dedicated to leading the United Way movement to create long lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of the most significant issues. Focus areas for United Way of San Luis Obispo County include helping children and youth achieve their potential, promoting financial stability and independence, and improving people’s

health. For more information about United Way of America, please visit: www.unitedway.org. For more information on United Way of San Luis Obispo County, please visit: www.unitedwayslo.org.