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### Making the world a better place, one box at a time

University Relations

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**Making the world a better place, one box at a time**

*Summary: First-year students were engaged on a more local scale in making the world a better place for their neighbors by taking part in service projects during the campus' recent Welcome Weekend.*

(September 16, 2008)-*"An education that teaches you to understand something about the world has done only half of the assignment. The other half is to teach you to do something about making the world a better place."*

- Johnnetta Cole, former president, Spelman College

First-year students at the University of Minnesota, Morris were engaged on a more local scale in making the world a better place for their neighbors by taking part in service projects during the campus' recent Welcome Weekend.

Twenty Birthday Buddy Boxes were assembled, decorated to be party-ready and distributed to the Stevens County Food Shelf. This birthday-in-a-box provides the party ingredients for children celebrating birthdays whose families rely on the food shelf for basic needs. The boxes' contents were donated by UMM staff and faculty and included a variety of items from a small stocking stuffer, gift bags and tissue paper, cake mix, frosting, candles, balloons, paper plates and napkins to toothbrushes, socks, books, art and school supplies and more.

Students also readied a shed for rehabilitation at the second Habitat for Humanity build in Stevens County and removed leftover sheet rock and other building materials from the basement of the house.

"They went above-and-beyond the call of duty by wiping down walls and floors of the basement to rid the area of sheet rock dust," said Carol McCannon, coordinator for Community Service and Volunteerism in the Office of Student Activities at UMM.

In another project, students weeded and removed trash from the downtown Hoffman Realty/Keepers pocket garden on Atlantic Avenue. Students also scraped, painted and cleaned walls at the downtown Morris Theatre Cooperative.

Students who participated in these projects were: YanJiao Gu, Lynn Bixler, Lingin Miao, Tasaneeya Viratyosin, Nadine Frassetto, Gabrielle Andrews, Jessie Sherman, Lauren Bailey, Angela Fast, Katie Blais, Elise Porcher, Angela Lexvold, Rebecca Lindquist, Sophie Vogt, Lauren Dennhardt, Cody Miller, Kurt Schliep, Kathleen Kerber, Julie Drennen, Prash Naiden, Hanna Dahleen, Taryn Coleman, Jonathan Anderson, Hannah Merrill, Robert Smith, Nick Anderson, Johanna Lowray, Casey Robinson, Brynn Stember, Meghan Young-Stephans, K, Setzer, Kate Kuenn, Nate Christenson, Andrew Martin, Andrea Lund, Tiffany Alliisen, Jenessa Peterson, Ellis Valentinar, Yuliva Goldman and Manjari Govada.

PHOTO: UMM students Ian Philbrick (left) Nate Christensen and Elizabeth Thoma help load Buddy Boxes for delivery to the food shelf.

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