Every year during Spring Break, a group of students commits to participate in a service project.

This year the Serve Trip took 31 students, led by TCC Junior Eric Robbert and faculty chaperone Kirstie Sherman, to Swan Quarter, North Carolina to assist in disaster relief.

Swan Quarter was one of the communities affected greatly by hurricane Irene in August 2011.

Through the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), Trinity students were assigned to specific projects and responded to the needs of the community.

Students were put in teams and assigned to cleaning debris, repairing and rebuilding damaged homes.

On this trip, students learned new skills such as demolition, exterior painting, and driving trailer. For many students, this was their first rural experience.

Some of the students' best memories were worshipping at a local church on Sunday morning, and having lunch with the homeowners.

Student Ben Borst recounted the best part of the Spring Break Service Trip as: “the beauty of different people and personalities...”

“God works in many ways, yet they don’t even have to always be complicated; this trip showed me that. It’s not mysterious that people can come together to do work for others and God, and then through that, make new friends and memories.”

-Student Jacob Gerringer
Spring Break Service Trip, Continued

coming together for the same cause to serve people we don't even know”.

Interfaith Team Begins Spring Work

The President’s Interfaith and Community Service group “Building Bridges, Building Community” resumed their work on the morning of Saturday, March 31st. The group picked up where they left off in fall of 2011 in preparing the newly leased Rt. 83 Project to be incorporated into the Calumet Sag Nature Trail.

The group re-cleaned the trail area, picking up debris and trash from the winter months. The group also made significant progress widening new sections of the trail to the required 16 feet.

If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one”

-Mother Teresa
Social Work Professor Rose Malinowski led 16 students in an interim class focused on homelessness in the Chicago area.

The students learned not only from faculty lectures, but also from visiting speakers and volunteer experiences at 5 community partners. The group served lunch to over 350 guests at Pacific Garden Mission and Breakthrough Urban Ministries, and packed over 200 lunches at The Greater Chicago Food Depository. Additionally, the students spent days serving at the New Community Warming Center, a daytime homeless shelter in Logan Square, and listening to speakers from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless.

Spring 2012: Service-Learning Highlights

Physical Education 360: Special Population Exercise

In April, students in Professor Shari Jurgens’ PE 360 course led exercise classes to the residents of local assisted living communities Providence Life Services of Palos Heights and Smith Village of Chicago.

The students used skills and techniques they had learned in class to develop fitting exercise programs for the elderly residents.

Biology 111: Survey of Plants and Animals

In her first year teaching at Trinity Christian College, Professor Abbie Schrotenboer has already begun utilizing service-learning with her students.

The 9 students in Biology 111 have been preparing over the semester to teach 1st-8th grade students in Restoration Ministries’ afterschool program.

The class of 9 students taught 3 classes on local and exotic plant and animal life while also teaching the children the importance of environmental stewardship.

Social Work 225: Social Work Values and Ethics

The Trinity students in Social Work 225 served as mentors to 1st-12th grade students in Roseland Christian Ministries’ Transforming Minds Afterschool Program.

Each student volunteered at least 10 hours, while many continued to volunteer well past the course requirements.

The mentorship relationship focused on college readiness and academic success. Each student led a “college life” presentation to the Afterschool Program on topics that ranged from academic success to choosing a college major.
Roseland Christian Ministries

Above: Kwang-Shik Son volunteers with Trinity’s Asian American Alliance at the Pui Tak Center in Chinatown. Kwang-Sik is pictured here tutoring adult ESL learners. Photo Courtesy Vivienne Handumon

Above and Left: Trinity student group “Read with Me” members play with children at Roseland’s Strong Tower Shelter. Photos Courtesy Rochelle Burkes

Pui Tak Center

Right: Student Rochelle Burkes volunteers at Restoration Ministries’ afterschool program. A group of Trinity students volunteer in the afterschool program every week. Photo Courtesy Michaella Vance

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