

LYNNSIGHT



Judith L. Nelson
Vice President for
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Alumni Affairs

The earthquake in Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010 brought about one of the darkest moments in this university's history. From the tragic and heartbreaking consequences, which touched our community, we experienced the best of the human spirit through an outpouring of love and support.

In this issue of LYNNSIGHT, dedicated to the faculty and students who died in Haiti, and to our many Haitian employees whose families suffered, we give a special thanks to those friends – familiar and new – whose gifts directly support Lynn University, its students and staff.

From all over campus and throughout the world community, people have expressed encouragement and have shared their resources to bring relief to those hurting. Others have offered funds to start new initiatives, which will remember those lost and to affirm a passion for life in the face of devastating loss.

As a learning community, we remain committed to Lynn's mission and to our core values: we are family, we care for each other; and, we strive to provide an environment where each student can realize his or her true potential. We remain deeply grateful to those of you who choose to partner with us in these life-changing endeavors.



Thanks to you
we continue our commitment to our Lynn
family and our commitment to international
education and student service.

OUR COMMITMENT

to our family and

Lynn takes care of its family... with your help

One of Lynn's distinguishing traits is that all members of the campus community—faculty, students and staff—are considered family. The Haiti Crisis Fund was created to receive gifts to assist members of the Lynn community whose families suffered as the result of the earthquake.

The outpouring of generosity came from alumni, friends, neighbors, businesses, government officials and even total strangers. Nearly \$54,000 was contributed to this fund through 318 gifts.

Many Haitian staff have worked for years at the university, but their families remain in Haiti. Thirty-one of these staff experienced the destruction of homes in Haiti and injuries to loved ones. Through a simple application process facilitated by Employee Services, the funds were disbursed equally to these Haitian staff so that they could help their families in Haiti. Following are the stories of two Lynn staff members whose families were assisted.

MARIE HILAIRE

A housekeeper at Lynn since 2000, Marie Hilaire helps keep the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Library in its usual pristine state. She is the mother of one daughter and two sons. Her family home in Port-au-Prince was destroyed; family members now live in the tent city which sprung up following the earthquake. Marie's 20-year-old stepson, Olnick, suffered one broken leg; now six months later, he is walking with the help of a walker. With her portion of the crisis funds, Marie provided for his medical treatment and helped her brother and sister with their shelter needs.

With a warm smile, Marie spread her arms, making a circle, "God knows what we need. He puts it into the hearts of people to give to Lynn University. Then Lynn gives to us, and we can give to our families. *Merci beaucoup* pour toutes les choses. [Thank you for all these things.] You did a good job for us."

Merci beaucoup



Marie Hilaire and Marie Noël

MARIE NOËL

Since 2002, Marie Noël has worked as a housekeeper in Freiburger Residence Hall. The mother of one daughter, Marie enjoys her two grandsons. Her mother, brother, sister and niece all live in Haiti. "The house was broken by the earthquake, and my mother, who is 89, was sleeping outside. I was able to help them fix the house, and now my mother, and the rest of my family, sleeps inside again. The money was a really big help. *Merci beaucoup*. Bon Dieu beni." [Thank you very much. Good God bless you].

Growing global citizens

President Kevin Ross affirmed, “I have been asked many times if we plan to carry on with our commitment to international education and send our students on service trips to other countries — and my answer is a resounding yes.”

These new initiatives, made possible through donors’ generosity, will support that promise:

The **Christine Gianacaci Journey of Hope Awards**, in honor of Christine Gianacaci, funds two students’ travel costs for a J-term humanitarian mission trip. Christine’s parents founded Christine’s Hope for Kids, a foundation whose mission is to help underprivileged children and kids with differences, in their daughter’s name. Christine’s passion for helping children led her to participate in the Journey of Hope trips to Jamaica and Haiti. The foundation provides these funds to other Lynn University students participating in service organizations and humanitarian classes who want to participate in these trips and have life-altering experiences while serving others.

The **Lynn University Global Citizenship Memorial Fund** was established in March 2010 in memory of the dedicated faculty members and students who lost their lives in the earthquake while providing service and care to the people of Haiti. This fund provides

monies for students to experience university-designed and -approved educational and service opportunities, which focus on communities in need at the international, national and local levels.

The **Stephanie Crispinelli Endowed Memorial Scholarship** was established by Stephanie’s family in March 2010 to honor Stephanie’s life and her love of education and service. The scholarship is awarded to students who emulate Stephanie’s enthusiasm for reaching out to help others who commit themselves to responsible citizenship in our global society. The funds provide tuition and travel assistance for selected students who wish to participate in humanitarian courses approved and sponsored by Lynn University. As an endowed fund, this scholarship lives on in perpetuity. The first scholarship will be awarded in the 2010-2011 academic year.

These initiatives provide Lynn University students with the resources to participate in experiential learning and service at the local, national and global levels to further mutual understanding, and memorialize the Journey of Hope members’ service abroad.

Anna Krift, director
Center for Global Education and Citizenship

Remembering our lost...



Stephanie Crispinelli, sophomore



Britney Gengel, sophomore



Christine Gianacaci, junior



Courtney Hayes, junior



Richard Bruno, assistant professor, College of Liberal Ed.



Patrick Hartwick, dean, Ross College of Education

A FAMILY REACHES OUT

to touch the life of a student

In early February, Doug Briggs contacted Lynn's development office. He and his wife, Peggy, were interested in assisting a Haitian student whose education had been interrupted by the earthquake. Mr. Briggs commented to Judi Nelson, vice president for development and alumni affairs, "If I can help one student to achieve an education, I will be happy."

The admissions team worked with the U.S. State Department and the Haiti Embassy to identify a student from Haiti University who has the potential to be successful at Lynn. A student was identified, and the Briggs Family Haitian Scholarship was established.

Gwendoline Darguste

Gwen, the youngest of three children, was raised by parents Garnel and Josette Darguste who successfully educated their first two children. Gwen, a stellar student at her local school, holds high ambitions and dreams big dreams. She found that future abruptly shaken on Jan. 12.

... Words cannot describe how grateful I am for the opportunity that Lynn University and Mr. and Mrs. Briggs are giving me to pursue my dream. When this dark day came and took away almost everything, my parents and I were asking ourselves if really all those years of sacrifices and hard work were in vain? But you answered our question. You revived my dream and gave me most importantly a new and more vivid path to continue walking. So a million times THANK YOU for everything; you are giving me something most people in their lifetime don't get to have: a chance to realize and live their dream.

Again thank you,

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU.



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