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**Howard University's WHUR 96.3 FM**  
**"Helping Hands" Radiothon Raises \$125,000**

*Fundraiser to Send 500 Students to New Orleans to  
Help Rebuild Homes and Lives of Many Devastated by Hurricane Katrina*

**Washington, D.C., March 5, 2007** – Howard University Radio (WHUR 96.3 FM) "Helping Hands" Radiothon held on Sunday, March 4, was an overwhelming success; achieving nearly triple the fundraising goal of \$50,000 to send 500-plus students on an Alternative Spring Break (ASB) service mission to rebuild the homes and lives of people in New Orleans, especially those who live in the Ninth Ward, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Following 12 hours of continuous on-air outreach yesterday and a week of promotion, Howard University supporters, including thousands across the Washington Metropolitan region, donated more than \$125,000.

"Time and time again we have reached out to the loyal and generous listeners of WHUR and each time they respond in the record numbers," says Jim Watkins, General Manager of WHUR 96.3 FM. "Sunday's contribution exceeded our wildest expectations and we are truly thankful to all who donated to the cause."

The live broadcast featured Howard University officials including President H. Patrick Swygert, student volunteers. Other interviewees included New Orleans residents as well as political and religious leaders. Area leaders including Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett and Prince George's County first lady Leslie Johnson presented checks and challenged residents in their Maryland counties to continue to give.

This year's ASB, entitled *Journey Back to New Orleans — Uplifting Our People Through Service* will continue the University's legacy of leadership and service to our nation. Hundreds of students, double that of last year's participants, will pick up where they left off in their 2006

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recovery effort. Volunteers include undergraduate, graduate, and Howard University Law School students as well as faculty and staff.

“Howard University has been a part of the recovery immediately following the hurricane by accepting students from Gulf Coast Universities,” said Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert. “Last spring break our students went down and did a tremendous job of showing the residents that our support was unwavering. This year, hundreds more are going and this demonstrates our continued profound support and commitment.”

***About the 2007 ASB Mission***

***Phase 1*** begins March 11, when School of Law students will provide assistance by helping homeowners with developing legal documents and accessing federal benefits and informing workers and homeowners of their legal rights.

In ***Phase 2***, which begins March 17, more than 400 graduate and undergraduate students will travel 20 hours by bus to help build and restore hundreds of homes in the Ninth Ward, in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity and local organizations. Participants will also tutor local students.

For more information on how to support students in this important service mission, please visit <https://www.howard.edu/asbfund/default.htm>.

*Howard University is one of 48 U.S. private, Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities and comprises 12 schools and colleges. Founded in 1867, students pursue studies in more than 120 areas leading to undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. Since 1998, the University has produced two Rhodes Scholars, a Truman Scholar, 13 Fulbright Scholars and nine Pickering Fellows. Howard also produces more on-campus African-American Ph.D.s than any other university in the world. For more information on Howard University, call 202-238-2330, or visit the University's Web site at [www.Howard.edu](http://www.Howard.edu).*

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