Stockton Spring Breakers Travel to Rocky Mount, NC to Help Build Houses

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Galloway Township, NJ- Twelve students from Stockton College will travel to Rocky Mount, NC for their spring break to build houses with Habitat for Humanity. The youth volunteers are participants of Collegiate Challenge, a Habitat for Humanity program that provides year-round opportunities for youth to use their vacations to help build homes.

During the week of March15-22, 2009, the Stockton College Alternative Spring Break group will help build simple, decent and affordable homes with families in need. Nearly all funds for the trip have been raised through grassroots fundraising efforts by the students such as a pancake dinner and bake sales.

"The alternative spring break program is a great opportunity for Stockton Students to make an impact globally as they step out of the boundaries of the campus, and positively work to better lives and the communities of these habitat families," said trip chaperone, Joe Lizza, Assistant Director of the College Center.

This spring break marks the 20th anniversary of the Collegiate Challenge program, and more than 12,000 students will travel to 200 locations across the United States to build houses through the program. Throughout its 20-year history, more than 166,000 students have participated in Collegiate Challenge, raising more than \$15.5 million. This year alone, Collegiate Challenge participants will contribute \$1.8 million.

"Youth who choose to volunteer and build houses with Habitat for Humanity during their spring break are making a powerful statement about the role they want to play in helping families move into affordable housing," said Desiree Adaway, Habitat's senior director of Volunteer Mobilization. "We are grateful that for the past 20 years, youth have united to eliminate poverty housing across the United States through the Collegiate Challenge program."

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Collegiate Challenge is one of the many Habitat for Humanity youth programs designed to capture the energy and hope of young people worldwide to involve them as leaders in the work of Habitat for Humanity.

The participating students include Ray Kramer of Forked River, Caitlin Bueller of Egg Harbor Township, Carlee Caucino of Toms River, Latoya Freso of East Orange, Kelly Lake of Wayne, Brian Ackerman of Edison, Brian Sena of Moorestown, Dennis Coyle of Erial, Leighann Lorusso of Wall, Jenna Bontempo of Point Pleasant, Conor Sullivan of Lincroft, and Evan Wiessman of Newtown, PA. The chaperoning staff includes Joe Lizza of Blackwood and Linda Kenny of Galloway.

For more information about the Alternative Spring Break program or to donate to this year's trip please contact Jennifer Forman, Assistant Director of Student Development at (609) 652-4421 or Jennifer.Forman@stockton.edu.