Girl Scouts, Junior Achievement honor Dr. Kendrick

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick is being honored in April by the Girl Scouts of Connecticut and Junior Achievement (JA) of Southwest New England as a role model and inspiring leader for her contributions to growth in the state.

On April 6, Kendrick was one of 10 inspiring women business and community leaders in the greater New Haven area honored at the Girl Scouts of Connecticut's Women of Achievement Breakfast at the Fantasia Banquet Facility in North Haven. According to the Girl Scouts, “all 10 honorees are women of achievement and distinction who inspire us all with their courage, confidence, and character.” The Girl Scouts of Connecticut helps girls in grades K-12 develop strong values, social conscience and conviction about their own potential and self-worth.

On April 28 at the New Haven Lawn Club, Kendrick will be one of four individuals inducted into JA’s New Haven Business Hall of Fame. The Business Hall of Fame was established by JA to honor individuals who have significantly contributed to the growth and development of enterprise in Connecticut. JA said that by honoring the Hall of Fame laureates it “aims to present the best in business as worthy role models to Connecticut youth.” JA is the world’s largest organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.

Author Lamb discusses writing, storytelling at GCC

New York Times best-selling author Wally Lamb spoke to a crowd of more than 40 people at GCC on March 30, an event that was sponsored by The Esther Haseltine Schiavone Endowment Fund, which supports GCC events that focus on the arts.

A Connecticut native, Lamb discussed how he became a fiction writer, his rise to fame after being “discovered” by Oprah Winfrey and his work with female inmates at Connecticut’s York Correctional Institute, a maximum-security prison for women, which resulted in two nonfiction anthologies. To read an article in the New Haven Register about Lamb’s talk, click here.

Lamb’s first two novels, “She’s Come Undone” and “I Know This Much is True” were No. 1 on The New York Times’ best-seller list and featured titles of Oprah’s Book club. Between them, “She’s Come Undone” and “I Know This Much Is True” have been translated into at least 18 languages.

Lamb was in the ninth year of his 25-year career as a high school English teacher at his alma mater, the Norwich Free Academy, when he began to write fiction in 1981. He has also taught writing at the University of Connecticut, where he directed the English Department’s creative writing program.
The Esther Haseltine Schiavone Endowment Fund was established in 2006 through the Gateway Community College Foundation by Schiavone’s daughter Jennifer Schiavone Spinach. Spinach set up the endowment in her mother’s memory to help the programs put on at GCC by her longtime friend and author GCC Professor Franz Douskey (seen in photo, on right, with Lamb).

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NLNAC accredits nursing program for 8 more years

GCC’s nursing program has been re-accredited for eight years by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), an organization nationally recognized as a specialized accrediting agency for both post-secondary and higher degree programs in nursing education.

GCC was first accredited by the NLNAC in October 2004 and is one of more than 600 associate degree programs that are currently NLNAC-accredited. Its newest accreditation, voted on by the NLNAC’s Board of Commissioners at its last meeting, will last through 2017.

As part of the accreditation process, a NLNAC site team visited GCC last fall and recommended to its board that GCC’s accreditation be extended.

“By choosing to be accredited by NLNAC, you and your faculty have demonstrated your commitment to the highest standards of nursing education,” NLNAC Chief Executive Officer Sharon J. Tanner wrote in a letter to GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick, notifying her of the news. “Your successful accreditation shows that your school does indeed meet these high standards.”

GCC’s Nursing Division Director Sheila Solernou, MSN, RN, said NLNAC’s re-accreditation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the program’s faculty and staff. “This is a tremendous accomplishment for our program,” Solernou said. “In receiving full accreditation for eight years, it further validates the high level of education that nursing students receive at Gateway.”

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‘Green-Up Your Career Day’ at North Haven April 10

GCC’s Center for a Sustainable Future is hosting a Green-Up Your Career Day Education Fair on Saturday, April 10.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the North Haven campus. It will feature GCC instructors and counselors who will be on hand to discuss GCC’s new “green” sustainable education programs, as well as career paths and internships.

Also information on financial support and counseling will be available from participating workforce development agencies, veterans’ support groups, the Connecticut Department of Labor and The Workplace Inc. Additionally, representatives from green companies will be available to discuss careers and job opportunities.

Trumbull Inventor Tim Dolan will discuss hydrogen applications for the home and businesses and a live “webinar” will be held with Career Talk Guys Doug Beabout and Kevin Sutton, who will discuss “Preparing Yourself to Fill the Green Gap.” There will also be a free barbecue lunch and demonstrations.
For more information about the event, contact GCC’s Center for a Sustainable Future at (203) 285-2448.

GCC is a leader in green initiatives among state institutions of higher education. Through its Center for a Sustainable Future, GCC has established robust education and training programs that are preparing the in-state green workforce of the future. The center is committed to playing an integral role in the sustainable economic development of Connecticut and facilitating the transition to renewable energy resources, sustainable building development, energy efficiency programs, alternative transportation technologies and water management.

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**GCC above national average in engagement survey**

GCC freshman who participated last fall in a national survey that focused on institutional practices and student behaviors in the earliest weeks of college scored higher than the national average in a measurement of “high expectations and aspirations.”

The *Survey of Entering Student Engagement* (SENSE) was administered randomly to freshman classes during the first five weeks of the fall semester. The SENSE, an initiative of *The Center for Community College Student Engagement*, helps colleges understand why some entering students persist and succeed and others do not. It aims to show colleges what is working — and what needs improvement — in their intake processes and students’ earliest classroom experiences with the goal of improving entering student retention and outcomes.

GCC scored 58.4 on SENSE’s “high expectations and aspirations” dimension, which had a national average of 50.9. In describing this dimension, the survey stated: “Nearly all students arrive at their community colleges intending to succeed and believing that they have the motivation to do so. When entering students perceive clear, high expectations from college staff and faculty, they are more likely to understand what it takes to be successful and adopt behaviors that lead to achievement. Students then often rise to meet expectations, making it more likely that they will attain their goals. Often, students’ aspirations also climb, and they seek more advanced credentials than they originally envisioned.”

Responses to the following seven questions were included in the scores for this dimension (answers to the last four were scored in reverse): “The instructors at this college want me to succeed; I have the motivation to do what it takes to succeed in college; I am prepared academically to succeed in college; During the first three weeks of your first semester or quarter at this college, how often did you: (1) Turn in an assignment late, (2) Not turn in an assignment, (3) Come to class without completing readings or assignments, and (4) Skip class.”

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**New pact smoothes business transfers to UConn**

GCC graduates who earn an associate degree in liberal arts and sciences with at least a 3.3 GPA will be guaranteed admission to the University of Connecticut’s School of Business through a new expansion of the Guaranteed Admissions Program (GAP) between the state’s community colleges and UConn.

The agreement, announced March 24, expands the GAP, which
began as a pilot program in 2004 and provides all of Connecticut's community college students the opportunity for guaranteed admission to any UConn campus once they have completed an associate’s degree in participating transfer programs. UConn's campuses include locations in Storrs, Avery Point, Greater Hartford, Torrington, Waterbury and Stamford.

These transfer students will now have access not only to UConn’s Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Agriculture and Natural Sciences, as with the original agreement, but also to the University’s School of Business.

The first three GCC students to successfully complete the GAP started classes at UConn in Storrs last fall. A fourth went to UConn in January and four more are slated to go this fall, according to Lauren Doninger, who is GCC’s liaison to the GAP, as well as a professor of social sciences and coordinator of liberal arts and sciences and general studies at GCC.

In the November President’s Corner, the first three GCC students to use the GAP praised the program for not only saving them money, but also time by streamlining the transfer process and ensuring they completed two years of guaranteed transferable credits while at GCC.

For more information about the GAP program at GCC, contact Doninger at (203) 285-2601 or ldoninger@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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**Campus construction not delayed by record rainfall**

Temporary underground de-watering systems in place at the construction site of GCC’s new campus downtown have ensured the project was not delayed by March’s record rainfall.

“The de-watering systems that were installed at the commencement of the project have handled the large volume of precipitation fairly well,” said Doug Peckham, project executive for Dimeo Construction, the project’s construction manager.

Despite a second consecutive month of adverse weather conditions, work crews were able to complete the bulk excavation and nearly all of the heavy demolition work at both the north and south sites in March, Peckham said. The construction site is made up of two parcels, one located north of the other, on 3.7 acres that formerly were home to a Macy’s and Edw. Malley Co. department store at 2-20 Church Street. (Photo shows the south site earlier this week, looking north.)

The four-story, 358,000-square-foot campus will include a 600-car pre-cast parking garage, which adds another 200,000 square feet to the project. The state Department of Public Works is administering the project. The $198 million campus is one of the largest construction projects the state has ever undertaken and its first public building designed to be gold-certified in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

In addition to excavation and demolition, work advanced in March on the temporary earth retention systems around the perimeters of both sites to stabilize the existing concrete foundation retaining walls, which will be re-used in the new building design.

Concrete foundation work, which began in February, continued at both the north and
south sites. Large reinforced concrete mat foundations, which act as the building anchors to hold the weight of the buildings and withstand upward water pressure forces, were placed with some placements totaling more than 1,600-cubic-yard concrete pours in a single day. Concrete mat slab placements, foundation walls, existing foundation underpinning work and mini-pile installations will continue through late May.

The tunnel structural steel, north of the George Street Bridge, is scheduled to be erected in early June. Installation of the garage, located on the north site, is scheduled to commence by mid-June. Peckham said he anticipates re-opening of the tunnel street for deliveries, as originally scheduled, by October. The service tunnel is part of a grid that serves the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale and businesses along Church Street and is also where the new campus’ loading dock will be located. The tunnel was closed in early December 2009 to all vehicular traffic.

GCC basketball seasons come to an end

GCC’s men’s basketball team finished their season last month, winning their first game at the Region XXI Championship tournament at Springfield Tech Community College March 5, but losing in the next round.

On March 5, the Gateway Lions played Bristol Community College and won 107 to 98 moving on to the championship game against Roxbury Community College. Chazz McCarter scored 34 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Kwamaine McCarter had 30 points and 10 rebounds and DeArie Allick had 20 points with five assists and Jamar Benton had 10 block shots. But the next day, on March 6, the Lions lost to Roxbury 64 to 63.

At the All-Star Game on March 25, the Women’s Division II teams played the Division III teams. Division III defended Division II 62 to 59. GCC’s LaDrea Moss scored seven points. The Men’s Division II teams played Division III. The Division III team won 102 to 95. Chazz McCarter scored 12 points and Kwamaine McCarter scored 14 points.

Library is in ‘Day in the Life’ project, adds databases


The project was designed to collect information that captures the impact that Connecticut libraries have on their communities on a typical day. To see the photos submitted by GCC to the project, including the one shown here, click here. To read the comments posted about the GCC Library as part of the project, click here.

The library also recently added two databases to its electronic collection.

“Global Road Warrior” is a guide for companies and individuals traveling to, or doing business in, foreign countries. Covering 175 countries, it addresses 22 categories of interest to travelers, including business culture, communications, demographics, money and banking, points of interest, security, society and culture, tips for
businesswomen, transportation, and travel essentials. It also includes maps and photographs.

“A to Z Maps Online” includes political, physical, outline, population, climate, historical, and many other types of maps available for downloading and printing for educational purposes only.

For more information about these databases, please contact Dr. Clara A. Ogbaa, director of library services, at (203) 285-2058 or ogbaa@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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ELC plans events to celebrate Week of Young Child

GCC’s Early Learning Center (ELC) and the college’s Early Childhood Education Club are celebrating the Week of the Young Child, which begins April 12, with several events.

On April 12, the ELC will hold a family breakfast with a “grand opening” of the children’s art exhibit. On April 13, the center will host a family event with storyteller Valerie Tutson (photo).

On April 14, it will hold a staff workshop on bullying featuring Marge Lishez-Shapiro of the Anti-Defamation League. And on April 15, Meg Dunn, president of GCC’s ECE Club and certified Kindermusik teacher, will lead a music and movement class for the center’s children and families.

The center is also sponsoring vision screening for its children and Little Scientist workshops.

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Friendly Reminders

Send in nominations for the Staff Award by April 15

Nominations for the Staff Award — which is given each year to a staff member who has demonstrated outstanding work in the areas of service to the college, student support and a broader commitment to the community — are due April 15.

A committee will review all of the recommendations and select an honoree who will be presented the award at the Awards Convocation on May 20. The committee will consider the following attributes when making its decision:

- Demonstrates a positive attitude to students, peers, colleagues, and the community;
- Demonstrates a commitment to GCC and its students;
- Demonstrates a willingness to support students and their activities;
- Demonstrates an effort to encourage students to successfully accomplish their goals;
- Demonstrates superior customer services skills in dealing with students, faculty, staff, and the general public;
- Demonstrates a willingness to participate in college community
activities, i.e., search committees, professional development committee, etc.;
- Demonstrates leadership in solution finding and adds innovation and increased value to college processes and services;
- Demonstrates leadership in building bridges in the community, i.e. agencies, community-based organizations, etc.;
- Demonstrates a willingness to represent the college in the community.

Please forward your recommendations to Dean of Students Wilson Luna in Room 120 on the Long Wharf campus or via e-mail at wluna@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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**Wanted: Compelling graduate stories for the media**

Every year, the college’s Public Relations and Marketing Office assists the local media in their coverage of our commencement ceremonies by offering up interviews with graduates who have a compelling or interesting story to tell.

If you know of such a person who is graduating from Gateway this year, please send a brief description of their story along with their name, phone number and e-mail to Alison Skratt at askratt@gwcc.commnet.edu by no later than April 30. And thank you, in advance, for helping us tell all the inspiring stories that GCC students have to share.

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**Faculty & Staff Highlights**

**Distance learning coordinator honored for her service**

Kathy Murphy, a GCC professor and faculty coordinator of our distance learning program, has been selected for the Distinguished Service and Educational Excellence Award for 2009.

The award recognizes extraordinary professional service and is accompanied by $1,500 in cash and the opportunity to apply for up to $5,000 in financial support of professional activities not ordinarily available, including professional development, instruction innovation or an alternative assignment related to the college or system.

Among other things, Murphy was selected for her consistent enthusiasm, superior performance, excellence in teaching and her high-caliber contributions to the distance learning program.

Last month, Murphy was also featured in an Internet radio program about women in nuclear medicine technology. An alumnus of the GCC nuclear medicine technology program and the former coordinator of the program, Murphy was interviewed March 25 for Rights Radio by host Dr. Joyce Starr. To hear the interview, [click here](#), scroll down and click on the “play” button.

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GCC judge at science fair; More needed for May event

Deb Kaszas, allied health, college/university articulations coordinator, MPH, was one of about a dozen judges at the April 1 science fair at the Microsociety Interdistrict Magnet School science fair in New Haven.

Kaszas was one of four judges to review seventh- and eighth-grade projects, which emphasized an understanding of scientific method, hypotheses, independent variables, comprehensive lab notes and findings. In addition to looking over the experiments, lab work, models, pictures and final paper, the judges also judged presentations by the students.

“The students so obviously took great pride in their work and most students clearly gave much time and thought to their projects,” Kaszas said. “It was a special honor to be part of the process, especially being able to talk to the enthusiastic students.”

Judges also are needed to review projects at this year’s New Haven Science Fair Program at University Commons at Yale University on May 11 from 4 to 8 p.m. and May 12 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The fair was started in 1995 with seven test schools. Last year, more than 8,000 New Haven students and 43 schools participated in the event, which included more than 160 volunteers for mentoring and judging.

The fair asks that judges commit to volunteering both days, May 11 and 12, as consistency in judging is in the best interest of the student. If you are interested in being a judge, please click here to register. For information, contact Michelle Cirello at mcirello@gnhcc.com or (203) 782-4341.

Student Highlights

Phi Theta Kappa blood drive March 9 best since 2005

The blood drive held March 9 by GCC’s Alpha Xi Theta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society collected more units of blood than any drive on campus since 2005.

The goal for the drive was 35 “productive units” of blood, but 47 were collected, the most a GCC drive has collected in five years, according to Brenda Wagner of the American Red Cross. “It was a wonderful effort by everyone involved,” Wagner said. “Our sincerest appreciation goes out to all the students who worked on the blood drive, as well as the donors.”

The Alpha Xi Theta chapter also raised $53 to support Phi Theta Kappa programs through its bake sale at the event.

Nursing student receives national scholarship
A GCC nursing student has been selected as one of 25 individuals nationwide to receive the Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship, named after the founder of the global aerospace and defense company L-3 Communications.

April McGrath, 33, a Naugatuck resident who works part time as a nursing intern at Waterbury Hospital, was awarded the $1,000 scholarship by Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges, and will be honored for her accomplishment at the organization’s annual convention in Orlando, Florida, on April 9.

The Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship recognizes the outstanding academic and leadership accomplishments of students who demonstrate financial need and are enrolled in regionally accredited community college programs in registered nursing, respiratory care or emergency medical services. Under Lanza’s leadership as chairman and CEO, L-3 grew to have more than 73 operating units, among them Medical Education Technologies Inc. (METI), a leading provider of medical and health care education and human patient simulation technologies. The scholarship is equally funded by METI, L-3 Communications, the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa.

In addition to earning a 3.82 GPA during her community college career, McGrath (photo) is president of GCC’s Student Nurses’ Association, a board member of the Connecticut Student Nurses’ Association, a member of the National Student Nurses’ Association, an active member of GCC’s Alpha Xi Theta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and is a student representative on GCC’s New England Association of Schools and Colleges Re-Accreditation Committee.

Automotive students receive Grainger scholarships

Two GCC automotive students have been selected to receive Grainger Tools for Tomorrow scholarships.

Justin Hucul and Randy Pittman Sr. will each receive $2,000 and a customized Westward® toolkit from Grainger, a leading supplier of facilities maintenance products.

The Tools for Tomorrow Scholarship Program offers $2,000 scholarships to second-year technical education students who maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher and are studying electronic systems, HVAC/R, plumbing, welding, construction automotive or another industrial trade.

Dietetic technology student awarded scholarship

Adrienne Jamison, a Stratford resident and first-year dietetic technology student, has been awarded a Network of Executive Women Scholarship Award.

The scholarship is one of the primary community services offered by the Network of Executive Women, an organization that addresses the common business interests and issues of women in executive, professional and entrepreneurial roles through the exchange of ideas, information, and experience.

Each year, scholarships are provided to women who could best realize their potential by continuing their education. The scholarship is designed to give the recipients
enough education to find meaningful employment, better their present position, or re-enter the work force. It is awarded annually and is applied toward tuition, books and supplies.

Jamison recently returned to GCC after spending 20 years in customer service to pursue a degree in dietetic technology and start a career as a registered dietetic technician in a health care environment, according to Michele Stom, allied health/nursing advisor at GCC.

SIFE event explored doing business in Turkey

GCC’s chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) hosted a presentation March 15 called “Doing Business in Turkey.”

Approximately 30 GCC students and 20 Career High School students attended the event, which was held on the Long Wharf campus.

The guest speakers, which included a representative from the U.S. Department of Commerce and student from Turkey, discussed the challenges and opportunities involved with doing business in a foreign country like Turkey, said Stanley Kapinos, a GCC adjunct business professor and Sam M. Walton Free Enterprise Fellow.

SIFE is an international non-profit organization that works with leaders in business and higher education to mobilize university students to make a difference in their communities while developing the skills to become socially responsible business leaders.

DARC event simulated experience of schizophrenia

On March 16, GCC’s Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor (DARC) Program hosted “Hearing Voices That Are Distressing,” an educational event for DARC interns, their agency site supervisors and community agency clinicians that simulated the experience of schizophrenia.

Participants in the event used headphones to listen to a specially designed audiotape (photo) during which they heard voices and were asked to do a series of tasks, including social interaction in the community, a psychiatric interview, cognitive testing and a mock day treatment program, said Cher A. Shannon, MHSA, LADC, SAP, GCC associate professor and coordinator of the DARC program.

After the simulation, a debriefing and discussion were held.

1st annual Child Health & Safety Fair held March 20
GCC’s Student Nurses’ Association, in conjunction with Choice Security Systems, sponsored its first annual Child Health & Safety Fair on March 20 at the North Haven campus.

The fair featured arts and crafts, face painting, car seat demonstrations and kids play spots, as well as several child services vendors and local service organizations including police and fire departments and health facilities. GCC’s Early Childhood Education/Special Education Club also participated, providing a music activity booth.

Representatives from the “Be the Match Registry,” which is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program, were also on hand and registered five potential bone marrow donors.

Calendar Highlights

Spring Food Drive Runs Through April 22

The GCC Core Committee’s Spring Food Drive is under way. Donations of non-perishable food and cash will be accepted through April 22.

Food donations may be left in Room 122 at the Long Wharf campus or Room 101 at the North Haven campus. To make a cash donation, contact Kim Shea, director of admissions, at kshea@gwcc.commnet.edu or (203) 285-2011.

All donations will benefit the Christian Community Action Food Bank. All gifts of food or cash will be matched with a donation from the Feinstein Foundation.

Music professor to be featured in April 30 concert

Daniel Corr, classical guitarist and adjunct music professor at GCC, will be the featured guest artist at “Cultivating Community,” a concert Friday, April 30, with the Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) Choir.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be at 8 p.m. at the Saint Thomas More Chapel and Center at Yale University.

The NVCC choir will be directed by Dr. Richard Gard, NVCC music professor and chair of its Arts Department. Both Corr and Gard are graduates of the Yale School of Music. This is the first time that GCC and NVCC are holding a joint musical event, but the second time the two colleges have collaborated with an arts event. Last year, the schools joined efforts to support the Festival of Arts and Ideas in New Haven.

The April 30 concert features Corr (photo) in Romancero Gitano, a work for guitar and choir composed by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and set to seven poems by Garcia-
Lorca, which will be sung in Castillian Spanish.

Additional pieces will include: *Songs of Sorrow and Hope*, a new composition by Yale student Stephen Feigenbaum, which was commissioned by and in honor of German concentration camp survivors, featuring pianist Brian Parks; *Songs of Ghana* with drummers and dancers from Wesleyan University; Debussy’s *Beau Soir*, arranged by Gard; and *The Meditations of Li Po*, a contemplative piece by American composer Stephen Paulus.

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**April 11 Chorale fundraiser to help rebuild Haiti school**

Students from the GCC Chorale will join The Nutmeg Symphonic Pops, conducted by GCC adjunct professor Dino F. Ciaburri, for a concert on Sunday, April 11, to raise money to help rebuild a school and its surrounding communities in Haiti.

The 3 p.m. concert will be held at Battell Chapel at Yale University. It will feature the Chorale singing J.S. Bach’s *Magnificat* with soloists Lisabeth Miller and Joseph Stango. It will also feature pianist David Hollander playing Rachmaninoff’s *Piano Concerto No. 2*.

Suggested donation is $10 at the door. All proceeds go to support the rebuilding of *Ecole le Bon Samaritain*, or Good Samaritan School, an effort that is being spearheaded, in part, by Old St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Bloomfield. Checks may be made to Old St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church or to Catholic Relief.

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