

NANSEMOND- SUFFOLK ACADEMY

For Immediate Release
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Nansemond-Suffolk Academy Students Assist with Tornado Relief *Raise \$21,036.66 in Funds to Aid Tornado Victims*

Suffolk, VA June 9, 2008- Through the thick debris, torn and battered homes, crushed cars and emotionally distressed families, there was a light at the end of the tunnel. NSA's Saints have proven to be Saints indeed, supplying support and donations to the victims of the violent tornado that so suddenly struck Suffolk on April 28, 2008. The students, faculty, and patrons of Nansemond-Suffolk Academy have raised a total of \$21,036.66 in tornado relief funds for NSA families, the Suffolk Red Cross and the United Way of South Hampton Roads through a variety of bake sales, monetary donations, and charity events.

Through many heartfelt donations within the school, the Academy distributed \$20,210 to the five NSA families that were displaced from their homes and are having to rebuild. Among these families is the George Family, whose daughter Amanda is a member of the class of 2008. "Within a day of the incident, members of my class, people who were my best friends and people who I only knew by name, called and offered me everything you could think of," Amanda remarked. "When I thought of NSA these past few weeks, I have shed tears of gratitude."

In addition to providing donations for their own NSA families, the Academy provided blankets, towels, toothbrushes and coloring books to the King's Fork Shelter the night of the tornado for the first round of shelter victims. Furthermore, several NSA "Helping Hands" Club members and faculty participated in the *Live United, Community Care Day* that was held on May 10th where the school donated approximately 150 meals for the volunteers.

Additionally, numerous events held within the school brought in funds for both the Red Cross Relief Fund and the United Way. The faculty and students in the Upper School brought in baked brownies, cookies and other goods for a school-wide bake sale and the Fine Arts Department sponsored its annual student art and photography show, where students donated their proceeds to the disaster victims. NSA's Multicultural Diversity Club raised another \$100 for the United Way with a showing of the Academy Award

winning film, “Life is Beautiful”. Ironically, the movie served as a poignant symbol of an undying hope towards family, peace, and happiness.

The students in the Academy’s Lower School showed their compassion by agreeing to host a spirit day where students paid a dollar to sport their NSA colors. NSA also provided a direct link on the school’s website that enabled NSA families and the general public an easy way to donate to the Relief Fund with a simple click of the mouse.

All of these projects and acts of kindness engage all ages and interests in the school. In providing short-term relief and development assistance for the disaster victims, NSA students are learning first-hand about community service. Through the chilling tragedy of the tornado came something bigger and better, an outburst of spirit and hope that only true “Saints” can give.

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