

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **BonaResponds ready to launch International Service Day**

Allegany, N.Y. — BonaResponds is on a mission.

This mission is not isolated to Allegany, N.Y., or even the U.S. BonaResponds, a disaster relief group based at St. Bonaventure University, is preparing for its largest event—an International Service Day on March 27, 2010. The group is recruiting volunteers and assembling them around the world to launch this mission.

Let the countdown begin.

“We’re asking anybody. We’re trying to get them to go out and either organize a volunteer activity or join an existing one,” Steve Gearhart, a St. Bonaventure senior physics major and BonaResponds leader, said. “It can be anywhere or anything, ranging from helping someone shop for groceries or walk a dog, help build a house or go work in a soup kitchen. Big or small, it doesn’t matter. Just go help somebody.”

Let students tell you more through YouTube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luW-gjFokpU>.

The International Service Day will span 30 sites and 10 countries. BonaResponds encourages others to join. Sites will be as far away as Chengdu, China, or as close as Buffalo, N.Y. These sites can be tracked through an interactive map on BonaResponds’ Web site. Throughout the event, volunteers will upload news and pictures to the site through social media applications, including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

“It’s going to be like the North American Aerospace Defense tracking Santa around the world,” Jim Mahar, St. Bonaventure associate professor of finance and founder of BonaResponds, said. “It’s like that, but with tracking service all the way around the world.”

Join the mission and sign up at <http://bonaresponds.org/nsd.html>.

BonaResponds was created in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It has taken more than 500 volunteers to the Gulf Coast and led just as many volunteers in service projects throughout the nation and Western New York. BonaResponds aims to be a world-class organization whose mission is to help people in need as well as to build better leaders and better communities. The group, comprised of students, faculty, staff, alumni and local residents, is run completely through donations. BonaResponds welcomes new members, regardless of their affiliation with St. Bonaventure.

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