

Digging deep to help Hurricane Katrina victims

By Jerry Bradley

Antoinette McDonald, a Dallas, Texas native and SIUC grad student living in Murphysboro, felt helpless, like everyone else, in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane Katrina catastrophe. Being a student, she didn't exactly have any loose funds rolling around to donate to the cause. Still, she was fiercely determined to find a way in which she could offer her time, talent, muscle, or anything else she could muster to somehow help with the massive relief effort. With 600 miles between her and New Orleans, McDonald scrambled to figure out any way that she could assist the displaced who were being scattered all across the country.

Naturally, she turned to the Red Cross, though her first contact with the relief organization was sobering. The Mount Vernon chapter told McDonald that they would be offering free disaster training courses in a couple of weeks, but McDonald thought two weeks was too long. By that time, she reasoned, they would need training to dig graves, not get help to those in immediate need.

Undaunted, McDonald kept calling around and following leads until she was directed to the Red Cross chapter in Paducah, whereupon she was informed that a busload of survivors would be arriving at the city in only a couple of days.

She quickly contacted a couple of close friends, Denise Kaye and Sabrina Worsham, and they began planning for their trip and started gathering food and supplies for the relief effort right away.

As mentioned, the plan was to take the goods they had collected to Paducah, only an hour-long drive from Carbondale. However, the crew was informed at the last minute that no buses would be arriving in Paducah anytime soon, and that the nearest survivor destination would be an hour further south in Murray, Kentucky.

Unwilling to let 60 more
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Doorway to world of music found at TESSI

Joyce Nelson and Alyce Ward are ready to give the gift of music to your children

By Dalus Kulich
General Manager

Joyce Nelson and Alyce Ward want to introduce you and your child to the world of music. Co-owners of the Talent Education School of Southern Illinois in Carbondale, Joyce and Alyce, along with Dave Stoecker, offer violin, piano and guitar lessons and pre-school music lessons.

"Our work is devoted to discovering and training the in-born talent of children through music," Joyce said. "TESSI provides those adults who desire to share the gift of music with their families, a range of age-appropriate, hands-on classes."

Joyce and Alyce opened TESSI on July 1 and started lessons on August 2. They met three years ago, when Joyce began working at Southern Illinois University's School of Music. Alyce and Joyce were assistant instructors at the school, Alyce having been there since 1983.

"It was a business decision to start TESSI," Alyce said. "There is more power in numbers. Joyce teaches violin, I teach piano and my significant other, Dave, teaches guitar. It is important that we can offer a package of different instruments to people, rather than having them run to one teacher for one thing and run to another for something else. We like being able to offer parents viable instrument options with a common educational philosophy."

Alyce has a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in piano pedagogy from SIU.



Alyce Ward instructs Sanjana Dhali, 12, of Carbondale during her piano lesson at TESSI.

Joyce has a bachelor's degree in music education from Mount Union College in Ohio and a master's in violin performance from the University of Iowa. Joyce has completed post-masters graduate studies in the preparatory string program at SIU in Edwardsville, in addition to graduating from the Talent Education Research Institute in Matsumoto, Japan, under Dr. Shinichi Suzuki.

Dave has a bachelor's degree of music in guitar performance from SIU and further post-graduate study in guitar performance at SIU. All have had extensive training through Suzuki Association of the Americas.

"We are a team of experienced, trained, music educators who are dedicated to the philosophy and techniques of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. He called his creation 'Talent Education,'" Joyce said. "Suzuki Talent Education consistently ranks high in quality of life factors. Active parent involvement is a feature that contributes to excellence in music performance, communication between adults and children, in a community of supportive people. By acknowledging students' efforts and encouraging students to reach their highest potential, this community contributes to the music environment, which is non-competitive and healthy and engages our young people in a worthwhile activity, with a lifelong appreciation of the musical arts."

At TESSI, Joyce and Alyce utilize "guided step sequences" when teaching music that facilitates "entry level parents understanding the whys and how-tos of the Talent Education philosophy," Joyce said.

"One of the things that I love about the consistency of talent education is that we are a part of an international organization, and our literature is standardized. It's a whole school of literature leading to playing an instrument," Joyce said. "Because we are members of the Suzuki Association of Americas, and there are thousands and thousands of teachers throughout the world, if our students move, we can put them in touch with Suzuki teachers."

"Through our Suzuki training, we learn how to use the literature to teach the techniques. The more we discover about our own playing, hone those skills and make them richer and fuller, the more we are able to help the children express themselves through music."

Joyce's love of music began when she was seven years old.

"I started taking piano lessons when I was seven. Then, I started playing the violin and



Breck Warren, 10, of Carbondale, follows Joyce Nelson's lead at TESSI.

stayed with the violin to this day," Joyce said.

Alyce's passion for music began when she started taking clarinet lessons in the fifth grade. Then, Alyce turned her attention to the piano in the 8th grade.

"All I ever wanted to do was be a teacher and play music, so I put one and one together and came up with a music teacher," Alyce said.

"I played the clarinet all the way through college, playing in the symphony orchestra at SIU and in the Marching Salukis, but I really wanted to play the piano all my life. So after college, I decided to focus on the piano."

Alyce began teaching the piano in 1983.

"In 2000, when my son was two, there was a wonderful pre-school program in the area and the teacher just left," Alyce said. "One day, I ran into a grandmother who said, 'Can't you do a pre-school music class? You are a music teacher.' It took me six months to get the materials together and start teaching pre-school children."

Joyce teaches a parent preparatory class at TESSI, which guides parents through the philosophy, the importance of preparation and the whys and how-tos of Talent Education.

"It not only explains how to be Suzuki parents, but it also prepares parents for it," Joyce said.

"You need to accompany your child to the lesson and help them practice."

"We are looking for long-term relationships with our students," Alyce said.

"I have students who have been with me for 15 years. It is not unusual for Talent Education families to continue through high school."

Then, it was just another Carbondale visitors guide Now, it's filled with stories of the city's rich history

By Chanda Green
Editor/Publisher

Let me tell you some stories about Carbondale, then and now.

Then, it was called a hotel called the Union House, built in 1858, and later, the Franklin Hotel, the Erwin Hotel, Planters House, Gager House and finally, the Franklin House again in the 1960s. For more than 100 years, there was a hotel on the corner of Illinois Avenue and Jackson Street.

Now, it's the Carbondale Civic Center.

Then, it was called the Hamilton Building, built in 1917 at 209 S. Illinois Ave. It was home to the Carbondale Post Office, Central Illinois Public

Service Co. and the American Express Co.

Now, the building is home to Kaleidoscope, a contemporary gift shop, and Yesteryear Tobacconists.

Then, it was called the Auditorium. Presidents, former presidents and would-be presidents graced its stage.

Now, it's called Shryock Auditorium, one of the most beautiful and historic performing arts facilities in the region.

Then, it was called the Hartline Farm.

Now, it's called the Stone Creek Golf Club & Resort.

Then, it was called the Newell House, built in 1872 on the southeast corner of Main and

Washington. In 1915, after a complete remodeling inside and out, it was renamed the Roberts Hotel. On Sept. 21, 1939, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt stayed in one of its luxurious rooms when she came to Carbondale for the formal opening of the newly constructed Illinois Armory and Recreation Center.

Now, it's the Newell House again, home of one of Carbondale's finest restaurants.

Now, I have to admit: these aren't really my stories to tell. They have been painstakingly researched and compiled in a 54-page, visitors' guide just published by the Carbondale

Convention and Tourism Bureau. The slick storybook publication,

complete with historic photos, is the brainchild of Debbie Moore, executive director of the bureau. But the idea came from one story, told by Judy Travelstead, a local historian and librarian.

Judy was entertaining members of the Carbondale Federated Women's Club with a story about Eleanor Roosevelt's little-known visit to Carbondale in 1939. Judy is an avid historian and likes nothing better than sharing her "finds" with her friends. The ladies, including Debbie, were enthralled by the story.

So why did Debbie look like she had just swallowed something nasty?

"I had been working on the new visitors' guide for

Carbondale," Debbie said. "But when I heard Judy's story and began thinking about the city's history, I knew I was going to have to change the whole thing."

Debbie wasn't really upset about the prospect of revamping her latest project. She knew the idea was sound, no, downright exciting.

"I knew it would be a keeper," she said.

And she knew she had access
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Debbie Moore