



Residents of the Floyd County Youth Shelter painted murals on the pylons of the New Albany Amphitheater Saturday morning. Local artists Teresa Jackson and Jan Sherrell drew the images and the teens from the shelter filled them in with paint.

STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN MCGLOSHEEN

# Youth shelter helping hurricane victims

By KYLE LOWRY  
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The Floyd County Youth Shelter will be filled with sweet smells this week as children housed there prepare for a bake sale that will benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"What if we were in that situation?" said a 16-year-old shelter youth. "We'd want people to help us."

Proceeds from the sale will go towards buying supplies, such as clothes, shoes and bottled water, for those in Louisiana and Mississippi whose lives have been forever changed by the summer storm.

The menu, cooked completely by shelter residents, will include cookies, brownies, diabetic cookies, no-bake cookies and cupcakes. Prices for the charitable confectioneries will run between 25 and 75 cents.

Supplies and funding for the bake sale were provided courtesy of Regional Youth Services.

Because children living at the shelter are often in need of short-term housing, Leah Pezzarossi, executive director of the Floyd

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LEAH PEZZAROSSO  
FLOYD CO. YOUTH SERVICES  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

County Youth Services Bureau, said they can relate to hurricane victims needs and concerns. After youth shelter residents became aware of the damage done by Hurricane Katrina, Pezzarossi said they were eager to help out.

"It tugs at their heartstrings and they can identify with it," Pezzarossi said. "It's really motivated them."

The bake sale will be held rain or shine on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the amphitheater on the New Albany riverfront. It will be easy to spot the bake sale's location because children at the county youth shelter have been painting a mural on the amphitheater's pylons.

"It adds a lot of color," said a 15-year-old shelter resident. "I think people will be attracted to it and want to come out and see it."

While some children will be manning the bake sale, others will be working to fill-in the rest of the mural, which is about half finished.

The mural's theme carries an anti-drug message and has pictures of healthy activities that children can participate in as an alternative to doing drugs.

"It's cool because I can take my kids down there one day and say I did this and it's an alternative to doing drugs," a 16-year-old shelter youth said.

Children had total creative control over the design of the mural which was drawn on the pylons by local artist Teresa Jackson and Jan Sherrell.

The summer project was funded from a \$2,750 grant from the Floyd County Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Task Force and painting supplies were donated from Sherwin Williams Paint stores on Grant Line Road and Dixie Highway in Louisville.