



The Curriculum Initiative Participates in Tulane University's Paint Rally to Help Beautify New Orleans Public Schools.

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New York City Independent School Students Participate in the Post-Hurricane Katrina Rebuilding Process

NEW YORK, March 7 -- The Curriculum Initiative (TCI), the premier Jewish educational organization serving independent schools, is leading a group of forty-six high school students and nine teachers from New York City independent schools to New Orleans to participate in the post- Hurricane Katrina rebuilding process with Tulane University's "Paint Rally" from March 20-23. This is the first step in an innovative Jewish service learning project to connect students to service learning in a community of great need.

Now in its fifth year, the Paint Rally is a program through which volunteers paint and beautify New Orleans public schools. With TCI, a non- profit organization that partners with independent high schools to support Jewish student life and Jewish cultural programming, students from the Kew Forest, Fieldston, and Trinity Schools will engage in community service activities that include scraping and painting classrooms and hallways and minor building repair. Their work will be bolstered by learning about Jewish perspectives on social action.

"Students will meet with families and other peers, boarding in FEMA Camp Algiers, where displaced New Orleans residents are also staying, and develop an on-going relationship with high school students from New Orleans," said Adam Gaynor, Metro New York Regional Director of TCI. "We hope to convey the key Jewish element of service to the world, or tikkun olam, which surrounds this effort and gives students a hands-on opportunity to apply this important Jewish value of giving and helping."

The Paint Rally program is grounded in a partnership of the Tulane Alumni Association, the Office of Student Programs, and the Community Action Council of Tulane University Students (CACTUS), along with New Orleans public schools. It is part of the city's overall rebuilding efforts.

About The Curriculum Initiative

The Curriculum Initiative (TCI) is the leading Jewish educational organization serving independent schools. Through extra-curricular programming, school-wide and classroom presentations, and professional development, TCI strengthens Jewish students' Jewish identity and nurtures school communities' appreciation for the Jewish heritage. Major funding for TCI is provided by the S. Daniel Abraham Foundation, Edgar M. Bronfman/The Samuel Bronfman Foundation, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation, Jim Joseph Foundation, Natan Fund, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and the Alan B. Slifka Foundation.