

# FCCLA students lead Feed the Children food drive for recovery efforts

*Students from Jennings, Merryville, Oakdale, Oberlin, Moss Bluff and the Ragley-Longville area participated.*

**BY LAURA HELLER**  
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Almost four years after Hurricane Rita and almost a year after Hurricane Ike, hundreds of Cameron Parish families are still on the road to recovery.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America students in Louisiana recognized this and as a part of an outreach program organized a Feed the Children fundraising drive for hurricane-weary residents.

Statewide, the initiative raised \$9,484 for the Feed the Children Food Drop. The money was used to buy non-perishable food and hygiene items for more than 400 boxes to be distributed in Grand

Lake, Hackberry and Lafayette.

About 160 Cameron families were chosen to receive the boxes. Families received a 25-pound box of nonperishable food items, a 12-pound box of hygiene items and a box of Avon items.

The boxes were designed to help supplement a family for up to a week, FCCLA officials said.

Student volunteers and teacher advisers were at the Cameron Council on Aging Community Center in Grand Lake on Thursday to load boxes into residents' vehicles.

"FCCLA student members have demonstrated not only an awareness of this problem, but a commitment to do something tangible about it," said Larry Jones of Feed the Children. "Their activism helped put more trucks on the road, delivering food and other essentials to families who are struggling to survive."

FCCLA members from all over the state participated,

including students in Jennings, Merryville, Oakdale, Oberlin, Moss Bluff and the Ragley-Longville area.

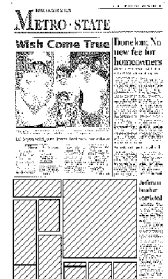
FCCLA chapters conducted community service projects to raise money to sponsor the delivery of goods from Feed the Children to Louisiana families. Fundraisers included fun runs and teachers-vs.-students volleyball games.

Also involved in the initiative were Catholic Charities of Lake Charles, the Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office, Cameron Parish Ambulance District 2, Cameron Parish employees and the Cameron Council on Aging.

FCCLA is a national organization for family and consumer sciences students.

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**Larry Jones**  
Feed the Children





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Student members of Louisiana Family, Career and Community Leaders of America load boxes of food and personal hygiene items into Jena Benoit's truck at Grand Lake Community Center on Thursday. A total of 160 families in Cameron Parish received boxes that ECCLA students across the state put together in a Feed the Children drive. Students from Oakdale, South Beauregard and Oberlin high schools volunteered their time to hand out the boxes to families in hurricane-devastated areas.