



Saturday, October 22, 2005

# Concert for storm victims grew from idea to do more

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**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS** - The Northern Kentucky Gulf Coast Benefit will be held Sunday at Northern Kentucky University.

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The event got its start with Christi Hoehn of Newport, who thought local donations to hurricane victims weren't enough.

"I thought, if all the cities in Northern Kentucky just pulled together, we could really do something that makes a difference," she said.

Hoehn formed the organization One for All, United We Care and contacted 39 cities in Northern Kentucky, calling a meeting to see how they could address the problem collectively.

"I never gave a speech in front of city officials before and I fumbled a bit, but everyone was wanting to help," she said.

Her plan was a one-day, region wide food and clothing drive to benefit hurricane victims.

NKU Dean of Students Kent Kelso, an Independence councilman, attended Hoehn's meeting. He suggested using the NKU campus as a staging point, combining city drop-offs with a concert by the Northern Kentucky Children's Ensemble to make one large event.

"At NKU, part of our job is to figure out ways to bring people together, whether it's with fund-raising or issues that need to be debated in the public forum," Kelso said.

The concert begins at 3 p.m. in Greaves Hall. Norma Rashid will be the emcee.

The NKU Vocal Jazz Ensemble will sing "Now or Never" and Miles Davis' "All Blues." The Children's Ensemble will perform "America the Beautiful" and "Deo Gratias" by Benjamin Britten.

Other groups performing will include Metropolitan Opera bass/baritone Richard Cowen, the NKY Opera Troupe and the Northern Kentucky Youth Sinfonia.

Completing the concert will be two survivors of the New Orleans flood, Ashley and Mike Lemmler. The two have been staying in Northern Kentucky since Katrina devastated their home. Ashley is a singer and Mike is pianist. Together they will be performing "Basin St. Blues" and "Moon River." The grand finale will include a jazz arrangement of "My Old Kentucky Home."

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