



To help a neighbor, Ms. Chriswell attempts to salvage pictures. "I thought it was good to be reminded of how much helping people benefits society as a whole," Chriswell said. (Photos courtesy of Perry McLeod)

▶ amanda locklear, designer
▶ chandni amin, writer

ONCE IN A THOUSAND YEARS

columbia stands strong after experiencing one of its toughest disasters yet



At the flood drive, juniors Marzell Jackson and Michael Joyner carry bags of donated supplies into the school. "It felt good giving back to the community because I knew that some people had things that were damaged during the flood," Jackson said. ▶ At the flood relief effort, senior Eric Johnson helps carry bags of clothes from cars to sorting rooms days after the flood. "I showed up because I felt a sense of responsibility to help my community in a time of need," Johnson said. (Photos courtesy of Perry McLeod)

▶ The waters came swiftly, suddenly, but, in no way, silently.

In October, a flood that was described as coming once every thousand years swept through in one weekend, and devastated an entire state.

It discriminated against no one.

"It didn't matter if you were rich or poor," JoAnna Chriswell, theater teacher, said. "It was the same tragedy to everybody. [It] stripped everyone down to their bare bones."

The aftermath showed a crippled city that struggled to cope with a natural disaster of such magnitude.

"It was awful," Anna Price, senior, said. "I saw several people who had to start from scratch, who had to completely tear their homes down and rebuild. And some of them didn't have the ability to rebuild because there was so much destruction."

Despite how the floodwaters had taken so much from them, students gave the city back far more than they had

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joanna chriswell

own school communities.

"As soon as we came to the flood drive, immediately [I saw] there were so many people there," Alyssa Pacheco, senior, said. "There were already rooms filling up with donations, and [we had to] keep going and opening rooms for all of the donations."

This show of altruism resounded especially with Chriswell, a teacher who had the experience of living through Katrina in addition to this newer disaster.

"It was really wonderful to see people being so selfless in the midst of a tragedy," Chriswell said. "And I thought that there were a lot of people who didn't really realize how little of themselves they gave to other human beings until something happened."

Although the waters themselves eventually receded out of view, the community's recovery efforts continued going strong.

"[The efforts] really grew after the flood," Pacheco said. "Some people realized how much they had, and how much they wanted to give." ▶



Baseball coach Lucas Hummers and school counselor Patrick Blake carry donated clothes to sorting rooms during the flood drive. "It felt good to give back to the community and I was glad that I came out to help," Hummers said. ▶ During the flood, Latin teacher David Letts and freshman Armani Wright help out by transporting boxes of supplies. "RNE was a community center; it was our responsibility to allow our space to be used in emergency situations," Letts said. (Photos courtesy of Perry McLeod)



Senior Kaeli Medlin carries supplies that will benefit flood victims. "It was just amazing to see that nothing could tear our community apart, not even a natural disaster," Medlin said. (Photo courtesy of Perry McLeod)

12 billion dollars worth of damage
100+ roads closed
OVER 16 INCHES OF WATER
5 days of school missed by the numbers ▶▶ death toll at 19 ◀027, flood▶