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A FURMAN-STYLE DAY OF SERVICE

Up and down the eastern half of the nation, from Philadelphia to Jacksonville and points in between, alumni and friends turned out for a Day of Service to kick off the university's Inauguration Week.

When alumni and friends were invited to model one of Furman's core values — service — in honor of Rod Smolla's inauguration, they responded October 16 by taking part in a variety of projects and activities.

In Nashville, Tenn., Furman folks contributed to Salvation Army efforts, while the Charlotte, N.C., crowd worked with a crisis ministry program. In Philadelphia Furman was well represented in the Nephrotic Syndrome charity walk, while in Washington, D.C., alumni and friends helped with a walk for the homeless. Greenville Paladins volunteered with the American Diabetes Association charity run, and the Jacksonville group was involved with a program for the physically challenged.

Habitat for Humanity in Columbus, Ga., was also a beneficiary of the Day of Service. Cindy Black Sparks '80, a member of the Alumni Association board, filed this report on the Columbus group's experience:

Alumni old and young, current students, parents, and other friends of Furman joined forces in Columbus for the Day of Service in honor of President Smolla. Wearing our Furman caps and commemorative bandanas, 20 of us enjoyed catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

We did our share of work, too, raising the exterior walls of a house being built for an excited new homeowner. As we worked, we shared Furman stories, talking about which couples had become engaged during their Furman years, who knew whom in school, and which dorms everyone lived (or lives) in. We also got the lowdown on the latest fraternity and sorority escapades.



George Flowers '13 joined us while home from Furman on fall break. He offered some astute observations about the meaning of our efforts.

He wrote, "The Habitat build displayed a characteristic that is embedded in the foundation of the Furman community. Creating something together without seeking reward is a value we all share. Whether we learn it in our time at Furman (in or out of the classroom) or come with prior understanding, each of us can reflect on some time during our

Furman careers where we were asked or required to fully engage in a task larger than ourselves without expecting anything in return.

"I came to celebrate, build and share that bond with alumni, parents and students. I hope that I will be able to some day grasp a small amount of the selflessness I found in talking to Furman alumni during this project."

Katie Martin Krieg '04 provided an additional perspective: "I am so proud to be an alumna of a university that strongly encourages service. It was great to work with Furman friends to help make our local community a little better."

There is, indeed, something about the Furman Family that draws people together. Even if it's just passing a car with a Furman decal or seeing someone in a purple T-shirt, we immediately feel a connection.

At our Day of Service, we made new friends, renewed old acquaintances, created special memories, and pitched in to support a great cause. It was a pleasure to celebrate President Smolla's inauguration by demonstrating Furman's never-ending traditions of service, support and community outreach. |F|