Philadelphia University Volunteers Spend Spring Break Building Habitat Homes in Greensboro, Ala.

Philadelphia, March 9, 2007 – Next week, instead of heading to a sunny beach or visiting their families, 16 students and staff members from Philadelphia University will travel to Greensboro, Ala., to work on Habitat for Humanity houses and help families devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

During the week of March 10-17, the Philadelphia University group will work on the home of David Jeffcoats, who is disabled, doing carpentry, painting, putting in flooring and working on the grounds. The Philadelphia University volunteers also will help prepare and clean up the site for seven Operation Home Delivery homes that will be built this summer for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Several Philadelphia University volunteers are studying architecture and will be able to put some of their building knowledge to good use on the building projects. This is the seventh year that volunteers from Philadelphia University will spend spring break framing walls, hammering, measuring and installing roofing.

“We are very excited to work on these homes in Greensboro,” said Lesley Villarose, Philadelphia University’s assistant director of student activities and coordinator of community services programs. “Our students welcome the opportunity to help these families who were affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina get back on their feet.”

Greensboro, a poor, rural town of 7,000 residents, is in Katrina-affected Hale County, which had homes damaged by high winds that blew through during the hurricane. Some of the homes the Philadelphia University group will work on are for local Greensboro families and others will be new housing for those who lost homes in New Orleans and along the Mississippi coast.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,200 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. The
University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts and Science and Health.