Beach Clean-up Reflections

Steven Parker ’10

Now that I have had a week to reflect on this past Sunday’s beach clean-up, I can honestly say that it was nothing short of incredible. Lindsey Morton and Katie Boland ran a perfect event for many different reasons. The organization, support, and participation truly blew me out of the water.

I was fortunate enough to man the Fairfield University registration table on the morning of the event. Here, I had the opportunity not only to catch up with friends, but witness the giving nature of so many of our alumni. We had work groups comprised of staff, Class of 12, 11, 10, 9… etc., a few current students, and even one of my favorite professors. Alumni from many class years came to help out with the devastation that Hurricane Sandy caused; in some cases traveling hundreds of miles.

Work crews cleared houses of ruined property, cleaned up front yards, and moved an unimaginable amount of sand. The beach area was devastated, but our community came together and demonstrated what it truly means to be part of Fairfield University; part of community based in care and support. I don’t believe the day could have gone any better. I was devastated to see the destruction, but inspired by the extraordinary participation. When I look back 20 years down the road, this is an experience that I will use to describe to my kids what a Fairfield University experience is about.

Daniel Kagdis ’10

Over this past weekend a group of 1,000 people affiliated with the town of Fairfield gathered for a beach clean-up after Hurricane Sandy. Walking down to the beach I had no idea what to expect from the day. Would there be a beach? Will the houses still be standing? How much destruction will be present?

Though the effects of Sandy were evident from the start, the most striking sight was the group of people coming together to rebuild the beach area. There were over 120 individuals affiliated with the University (students, professors, staff, and alumni) working together and sharing a mutual love of their experiences at the beach. A lot of the work involved moving sand, clearing debris, and gutting the insides of homes because of the water damage.

At the end of the event, I was sitting around a group of alumni just talking about our day. One person’s comments absolutely summed up my thoughts: She stated, “My legs and back are sore, I’m a little tired, but if I didn’t try to make an impact Fairfield would have failed its mission.” Whether it is donating time, money, or support, everyone has been coming together to get Fairfield back to normal.