## Old school becomes volunteer haven

## By Ginger Jenkins Managing Editor

A spirit of cooperation and volunteerism is furthering Liberty County's recovery from Hurricane Ike.

Solicited by the Liberty
County Long Term
Recovery Committee,
AmeriCorps has been here
organizing cases of people
still in need after FEMA
and insurance has done
their part.

This past weekend, they put down the paper, pen and phone and grabbed cleaning supplies in anticipation of more volunteers coming to help with post storm recovery.

The committee has been working to identify those that Director Paul Graham said "may have fallen through the cracks."

With supplies and volunteers gathered to help, organizers searched for a

place to house and feed those coming to the area to help.

help.
Hull-Daisetta ISD
Superintendent Mary
Huckaby offered the old
high school campus, no
longer used for instruction.

After hearing about the Long Term Recovery's effort and about volunteers coming to the county to help with recovery, Huckaby offered the campus that has been closed since June 2008 to the group.

AmeriCorps troops scrubbed the kitchen and cleaned the science wing in preparation for the helpers.

Meanwhile, Graham continues to search for a place to store building materials that he is finding for little or not cost.

The volunteers and the materials, coupled with a concentrated case management effort, will repair roofs and help people put Ike behind them.

Tom Branch, emergency management coordinator for the county, released a statement thanking the AmeriCorps team of 18 to 24-year-old volunteers.

The coordinator said the team has called nearly 15,000 Liberty County residents to assess needs in the short time they have been in the County.

AmeriCorps National
Civilian Community Corps
members currently in
Liberty are Alyssa Lwless,
Terence Dyson-Curran,
Aubrey Cole, Stephanie
Paul, Leanne Sisbarro,
Bryan West, Sarah Clerc,
Mikki Stephens and Kalani
Kapahua.

To find out how to get help with recovery, call 936-648-6281.

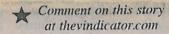




photo by Ginger Jenkins, for more photos, visit thevindicator.com

Bryan West of Hollister, CA. works with fellow AmeriCorps troops to clean the old Hull-Daisetta High School campus in preparation for volunteers coming to Liberty County to help rebuild after Hurricane Ike.