

MACKLIN BUSINESS INSTITUTE

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MBI Students Help Local Non-Profit Kick Into High-Gear

In 2006, the Walk In My Shoes Global Project, a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., was started by a young person with a vision. Today, the young adults in the Macklin Business Institute (MBI) at Montgomery College are making sure that vision becomes a reality.

The Walk In My Shoes mission is to provide new and gently used shoes to children living in developing countries throughout the world. Through September, the organization had collected and distributed approximately 3,000 pairs of shoes. The organization had just become a non-profit, had only two volunteer employees, and \$80 in the bank. The mission was in jeopardy. That's about the time the executive director, Barbara Cameron, whose son Malcolm began the project, was introduced to the MBI students.

Led by Crystal Quinones, Ksenia Prokunina, and Phil Royer, the MBI students brought the Walk In My Shoes mission to Montgomery College and local high schools.

They organized shoe drives on the college campus and at three local high schools, and fundraised about \$250 to be put toward a shipment of shoes directly to earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

"It's clear from their involvement in the shoe project and other community projects that Macklin students are serious about improving the quality of life of people not only in their neighborhoods, but the global community as well," Cameron said. "It's especially rewarding to witness the social consciousness of this generation of young people."

On the business side, the MBI students developed an entirely new Web site for the organization. Walk In My Shoes now has a new logo and the site enables the non-profit to accept PayPal donations. The team plans to add a blog, a gallery, the location of the next shipment of shoes, and the costs associated with that shipment.

Some measures of success include collection of over 1,000 pairs of



From left to right, MBI student Ksenia Prokunina, Walk In My Shoes Global Project Executive Director Barbara Cameron, and MBI student Crystal Quinones stand outside Cameron's car, loaded with shoes.

shoes and financial support for shipments to Guatemala and Sierra Leone. The daily hits on the Web site have risen from an average of two to four per day in September, to 600 per month.

"People can help by donating new or gently used shoes for those countries and monetary donations to pay for storage and shipment," said Cameron, who has been storing shoes in her house for three years and will need to find more space. "The Walk In My Shoes Global Project is growing and much thanks goes to the Macklin Business Institute students."

To help the mission of the Walk In

My Shoes Global Project, visit the Web site at www.walkinmyshoesglobalproject.com



MBI students helped collect over 1,000 pairs of shoes for the Walk In My Shoes Global Project.