

Deep

Impact

Written by Matt Walters

Kevin Kassakatis Receives North Carolina Campus Compact's Community Impact Student Award

Gardner-Webb's Kevin Kassakatis, a senior Missions Studies major from Thomasville, N.C., recently received North Carolina Campus Compact's fifth Community Impact Student Award. Kassakatis was one of 34 college students across the state to receive the award for making significant, innovative contributions to their campuses' efforts to address local community needs. Awardees also received a Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation from N.C. Governor Beverly Perdue.

After a trip to a Romanian orphanage with his church three years ago, Kassakatis has focused his volunteer efforts on local children's homes in the U.S.: specifically James' Home and Aaron's Home in Cleveland County. As one of the only male volunteers at Aaron's Home, Kassakatis serves as a role model for many of the youth there. Chuck Barbee, assistant director of the children's home of Cleveland County says, "Kevin is a very positive influence on the kids. Everybody enjoys his coming to the home." He also adds that, "Kevin is consistent and provides the children with tutoring services which are valuable."

"My interest in volunteering comes from my desire to see the Lord's name proclaimed by everyone," Kassakatis explains. "Hebrews 13:12 tells us that Jesus suffered outside the city where the sick, homeless, and needy were. I feel that it is my responsibility to be 'outside the gates' with the people who don't have everything. The Lord has blessed me with more than I could ever want and I simply want to show the people of the community that there is a Father in Heaven who loves us and desperately wants to have a relationship with us."



The Community Impact Awards were presented at two N.C. Campus Compact Student Conferences that brought together over 300 college students and guests representing 34 North Carolina higher education institutions. "It's always nice to be recognized for something that I have done," Kassakatis insists, "but I feel that, as a Christian, it is my responsibility to be out in the community serving those who are in need. I hope that my recognition is nothing more than a reflection of the love of God. He is the reason I work there, so He should also receive the glory." After graduating in 2012, Kassakatis hopes to pursue full-time missions and also plans to consider attending seminary.