Let us count the ways you empower

December 19, 2011 1:00 PM
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This is the season of giving, yet every day, members of the Tulane community work to make the world a better place. Sophomore Elyse Monat and others in the Tulane chapter of Best Buddies act as mentors to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the Magnolia School in New Orleans.

Sophomore Elyse Monat, left, has been “best buddies” with Pam Bernardi, who works in Bruff Commons dining room, for two years. The Tulane chapter of Best Buddies mentors people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the Magnolia School in New Orleans. (Photo from Elyse Monat)

Are you helping to improve public schools in your community, running a neighborhood clinic, or starting a business that effects positive social change? We want to hear from you.

Tulane is doing its part by being the country's first and only major research university to integrate community engagement into its undergraduate core curriculum. The university has launched Tulane Empowers, an effort to use the knowledge, expertise and energy of Tulane to increase opportunity and empower others to help their neighbors find successful pathways to education and jobs.

“I have been part of the Tulane community for a long time, but I can truthfully say I have never been prouder of how the university has become involved in the fabric of the lives of people in New Orleans and around the country,” says Yvette Jones, executive vice president for university relations and development. “I hear countless stories about what Tulanians are doing, ranging from grand game-changing efforts to simple acts of kindness. I hope many of you share your stories; they are sure to lift our spirits in this holiday season!”

Let us know how you're empowering, and share some photos or video. Selected stories will be added to the gallery on the Tulane Empowers website.