

## Impact Story

### LINDA OWENS - M.A.C.E. Alumna, 1994

From childhood, Linda Owens and her family were always involved in church; everyday life and spirituality were interwoven. As a young college student, Linda pondered her freedom to choose right or wrong, and made a life decision—choosing to do right.

Unsure of her exact calling, Linda enrolled in Christian Education courses at Northern and, "had just a phenomenal time learning about preaching, teaching, giving back to others, and community." She left with an M.A.C.E. and was called to nearby Benedictine University. There, Linda organizes missions trips. Students from Benedictine and the nearby Joliet Diocese have journeyed to Sucre, Bolivia, doing daycare at orphanages and meeting with youth groups—whatever has to be done to help others. Joliet's pre-med students also work alongside doctors and nurses at Sucre's hospital. Their help provides parish workers with 2 weeks vacation, a welcome respite.

Burdened by seeing Hurricane Katrina's devastation in 2005, Linda has organized annual trips to New Orleans since then. Next up will be relief work in the Philippines. Linda found her calling—and continues to follow Christ wherever He leads.



## Impact Story

### MARY SCHEER - M.Div. Alumna, 1999

Imagine a multi-gifted military officer with two black belts in martial arts, who is also a compassionate shepherd-servant who preaches sermons and leads a host of church ministries! That's Pastor and Chaplain Mary Scheer.

Mary was inspired to pursue her calling at Northern despite real obstacles. Several years and one M.Div. later, she and her family were called to Brewster Baptist Church where she serves as pastor, and to her second area of ministry as Chaplain Captain, United States Air Force and Air National Guard. Mary says her chief responsibility is providing pastoral care and counseling. She remarks, "Every aspect of my life has been shaped by someone else's willingness to serve others." Mary believes that she owes her commitment to furthering God's work in this world because so many loved and encouraged her while attending Northern.

