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## Caring souls put their ISE expertise to work for others

I've always been in awe of people who are the first to swoop in and offer emergency aid in a disaster, the first responders and volunteers who rush to the scene even before the smoke has cleared, water has receded or winds have calmed. That includes those who dedicate their lives toward humanitarian goals long after the crises have passed.

Among these inspiring individuals are industrial and systems engineers who apply their skills and know-how not just to improve bottom-line business success but also to make people's lives better. Some of them have emerged in these pages in recent months.

This month, we feature a cover story on Page 28 by Lauren Neder, a Purdue University IE grad who is director of the Imagine Missions Professional School in Haiti. She tells how she applied her engineering skills to help organize and improve operations at the school and to marshal the school's meager resources to help steer young people into a brighter future on that poverty-stricken island nation.

Our *ISE* cover story in April featured Andrew Parris telling how lean and Six Sigma principles were applied to help World Vision International provide relief to desperate refugees in South Sudan ([link.iise.org/ISEApril19\\_Parris](http://iise.org/ISEApril19_Parris)).

We also saw ISEs' service efforts at the IISE Annual Conference & Expo in Orlando where the Sustainable Development Division gathered a group of volunteers to work with two local nonprofits, Habitat and Rise Against Hunger (see a profile of its inaugural award on page 58). Last year, the group helped an Orlando Habitat ReStore become more efficient and responsive ([link.iise.org/ReStoreProject](http://link.iise.org/ReStoreProject)) in what has become a yearly project at Annual.

The organizer of those efforts, Brion Hurley, spotlighted another example in his recent social media post about a couple who founded a nonprofit in New Orleans to rebuild houses after Hurricane Katrina. Teacher Liz McCartney and lawyer Zack Rosenberg founded the St. Bernard's Project (<http://sbpusa.org>) that has helped hundreds of people return to their homes. To do so more effectively, they received help from lean experts with the Toyota Production System Support Center who showed them how to refurbish houses faster and with less waste by improving all of their processes. They chronicled their story in a book, "Getting Home," published by the Lean Institute. We plan to share their story in an upcoming episode of our new IISE podcast, "Problem Solved."

These smart, dedicated people have shown how problem-solving approaches and the quest for continuous improvement don't just apply to a production line. As a result, the world is a better place.