

DAMAR View

DAMAR'S Mission

We build better futures for children and adults facing life's greatest developmental and behavioral challenges.

1967-2007

40th ANNIVERSARY

The Second Decade

December 1978

Damar hosts inaugural Elvis Holiday Concert at Valle Vista Country Club.

January 1980

Damar hires Greg Johnson, who has served as chief executive since 1982.

August 1982

Damar forms a Human Rights Committee to protect and advocate for residents' rights.

September 1982

Damar receives donation of in-ground pool from the Indiana Pool and Spa Association.

November 1982

Damar is chosen as the primary beneficiary of Sertoma Club of West Indianapolis, a privilege it still retains.

January 1983

Damar opens its first group home, Elizabeth R. Frink residence, in Plainfield, IN.

June 1985

Damar's first capital campaign receives \$150,000 from Lilly Endowment.



Valuing Dreams, Encouraging Success

Foster leads expanding outpatient services

Jennifer Foster, LCSW, has been promoted to director of Damar's expanding outpatient clinical services initiative. She came to Damar in 1998, and her credentials include a Purdue University bachelor's in psychology and an Indiana University master's in social work, among others.

"As we grow, Jennifer's commitment to client care, dynamic leadership with associates and physicians and her guidance of mental health services will lead us in an exciting new direction," said **Dr. Jim Dalton**, vice president and COO.

Damar's outpatient care expansion underscores the national demand for – and Damar's success in providing – quality mental health services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Included among the 60 million Americans facing mental illness, people with developmental challenges are six

times more likely to have mental health needs than people without disabilities. And although they experience the same types of mental disorders, their intellectual limitations and other factors often impede assessment and diagnosis efforts.

"Children and adults with developmental challenges deserve the same access to quality mental health services as the general public," Dr. Dalton said. "Our mission to improve their lives inspires us to continue fulfilling that need."

May is Mental Health Month. Damar proudly supports this awareness initiative, which encourages Americans to take stock of their mental wellness. More information about this national observance is available at mentalhealthamerica.net.



Jennifer Foster

ACHIEVEMENT ♦ HOPE ♦ COMMUNITY ♦ SAFETY ♦ CONFIDENCE ♦ SKILLS ♦ INDEPENDENCE ♦ VALUES ♦ STRENGTH

All donations to Damar Services, Inc. are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. In remembering Damar's mission in a will or bequest, the following language is suggested: "I give, devise, and bequeath the (sum of ____, percentage of ____, residue of my estate, etc.) to Damar Services, Inc. an Indiana non-profit corporation, exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and located in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the furtherance of its charitable purposes."

To find out more about Damar call us at 317.856.5201 or visit our Web site at www.damar.org

Join us at the Damar Guild Dinner Dance

WHEN: October 20, 2007
WHERE: The Westin Indianapolis Downtown

D.A.M.A.R. GUILD

Valuing Dreams, Encouraging Success

D.A.M.A.R.

DAMAR SERVICES, INC.
6324 Kentucky Ave.
P.O. Box 41
Carmy, IN 46113

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 8365
Indianapolis, IN

Who will step forward?

Many of the children Damar serves do not have family members available to help advocate for their interests when it comes to their academics. The Damar education surrogate program utilizes volunteers to represent these children in matters related to their education. Education surrogates receive training through the Indiana Department of Education and serve as a member of student case conference committees, among other responsibilities.

Damar campus residents and community clients benefit from the valuable advocacy provided by education surrogates. Many are currently in need of an educational



Kay Landis, an education surrogate, with Houston, a Damar Academy student.

surrogate for the upcoming school year. Flexible training is available. Call **Donna Stutler**, volunteer resources director, at 317.856.5201 for more information.

A gift a month

A growing number of Damar's proud supporters provide year-round support for our important mission through monthly gifts.

Through automatic monthly deduction/debit from either their checking account or credit card, monthly donors have the freedom to decide the amount of their tax-deductible contribution. With 100 percent of all monthly gifts supporting Damar's Annual Fund, these donations enable Damar to provide essentials such as medical care and recreation opportunities that help children and adults with developmental disabilities achieve their fullest possible potential.

Use the enclosed envelope to begin your monthly gift to Damar and invest in what matters today!

Jackie's smile reflects her success

Jackie Hopkins' smile is so bright, it's contagious. It symbolizes the newfound confidence and self-identity she's developing at Damar; and for her continued progress, she has every right to beam.

Jackie's happiness and bubbly personality are a welcome contrast to her demeanor upon arrival at Damar in January 2006. Born into a challenging environment, she lived in foster homes with her two brothers until all three were adopted by Michael and Julie Hopkins. Jackie was 7 years old then, and her smile had captured their hearts.

As a pre-teen, Jackie began displaying severe negative behavior attributable to abuse she endured as a young child. It impeded her ability to thrive. After years of unsuccessful treatments from other providers, the Hopkinses visited Damar.

"We knew Damar was the right place for her," said Julie, who calls Jackie daily and looks forward to her visits home. "Damar's staff does what they say they will do and have exceeded our expectations. They truly care and it makes all the difference."

Jackie's difference is clear, too, in every aspect of her life.

"She was so timid that if anyone walked by her, she would literally jump," said Jody Felder, Jackie's teacher at Damar Academy. "Now she responds in a way that says, 'I'm okay,' and she enjoys good relationships with others."

Jackie earns perfect scores on spelling tests, completes all schoolwork on time and has mastered cursive writing skills. Continued support from Damar's staff has enabled Jackie's success in a personal wellness program that includes exercise, nutritious eating and an overall healthy lifestyle. And in April she moved from Damar's campus into a transition home.

"Because of Damar, Jackie is blossoming; she's coming back to us," Julie said. "Our daughter's beautiful smile has finally returned."



Twixt Twelve and Twenty

Do you remember Pat Boone's *Twixt Twelve and Twenty* about those trying teenage years? I thought not.

Anyway, you will note that the front page of our newsletter features some of the highlights from Damar's own adolescence and second decade of service to our mission.

Those years hold special significance to me because I joined this great cause in 1980. Two years before, Dennis Garrity began his 30-year run as Elvis at our annual Christmas concert.

In 1982, the Sertoma Club of West Indianapolis chose Damar as its beneficiary and has continued to support us.

In 1985, Damar conducted its first capital campaign and received the continued backing of Lilly Endowment that enabled us to increase our capacity.

These highlights are just a few examples of the outstanding efforts and contributions made by hundreds of our friends, volunteers and staff members. They provided the direction, discipline and support a "teenage" organization needed in preparation for adulthood.

With their help, we turned out pretty well.



Greg Johnson
President & CEO

Mentor while playing the course

What golfer could resist free games while changing a child's life?

Damar's Birdies Toward Better Behavior program needs adult volunteers, regardless of golfing ability. Now in its second year, Birdies is a 16-week co-ed introductory golf and



Golf volunteer Brandon Lang watches as a Birdies participant retrieves his ball.

personal development experience for participants ages 12 to 22. They learn golf fundamentals, rules and etiquette from recreation staff and adult volunteers who mentor on the green.

"The confidence our golfers gain through the Birdies program really results from their positive interactions with adult role models," said **Jim Porter**, Damar recreation director.

"Encouragement and support from volunteers helps motivate them to strive for higher personal goals, and that is the most critical measurement of success."

In fact, assessments of last year's golfers show more significant improvements in behaviors such as hyperactivity, aggression and shyness when compared to non-participating clients.

Both a three-year, \$10,500 grant from the United States Golf Association and a \$1,900 Indiana Sports Corporation grant help offset the cost of course fees, transportation and more, and Indianapolis



Stephen receives proper swing instructions from Jim Porter.

Golf Dome, Southern Dunes and Winding River golf courses provide reduced course fees. However, financial contributions are still needed to purchase golf clubs, balls and other equipment. Gently-used gear is also welcome.

Share your fondness for golfing with a child. Call **Donna Stutler**, volunteer resources director, at 317.856.5201 or email her at donnas@damar.org.

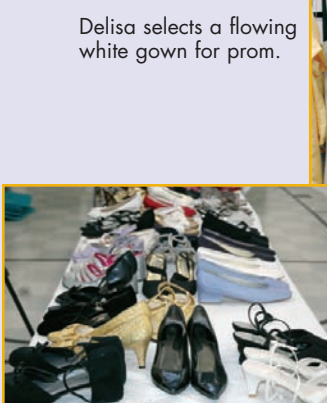
Donations enhance Damar's 2007 prom

The donation of 350 formal gowns, stylish shoes and professional grooming services from Damar supporters as far away as California created a memorable experience for 150 clients who were dressed to the nines and feeling on top of the world during Damar's annual prom held on May 10.

The overwhelming national response to Damar's public call for prom attire was captured by WISH-TV News 8, and *The Indianapolis Star*, and generated media coverage in Fort Wayne, Louisville and other major cities.



Joe is measured for his prom tuxedo by a volunteer.



Delisa selects a flowing white gown for prom.



Donations of elegant shoes line the table.



Staff News

20 Year Anniversary

Join Damar in honoring **Ken Benson**, director of operations and administration, who celebrates 20 years of dedicated service and many professional accomplishments as a member of Damar's executive staff.



Ken Benson

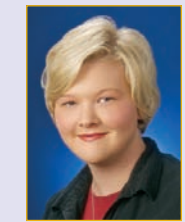
An Illinois native and Purdue University graduate, his strong Midwestern values and personal character also are evidenced in his community involvement with Boy Scouts of America of which he is a life-long member and volunteer.

10 Year Anniversaries

Becki Combs, Direct Support Professional, Girls Services
Terrence Gates, Direct Support Professional, Community Living and Social Services

BCBA certification earned

Leah McKenzie, residential director of Autism Services, has earned the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) designation, one of only 10 Indiana practitioners to hold that distinction. BCBAs advise other analysts on research-based behavioral treatments and mentor those seeking the certification. Leah came to Damar in 2005 and leads assessment and treatment programs for Damar campus residents with autism disorders.



Leah McKenzie

Damar's success lures top New York provider

Damar's successful clinical outcomes coupled with recommendations from a group of national consultants and experts brought leadership from New York's Hillside Services to Damar to learn best practices for developing behavioral treatment services for youth.

Although Hillside is one of New York's largest human service agencies and daily serves 1500 at-risk children and their families, their leaders' desire to capture Damar's expertise hardly surprises me.

Through the Damar Best initiative, our experts provide specialized consultation and training to families and caregivers, social services professionals and first responders, and industry consultants and others who interact with special populations.

Likewise, our increasing presence at events ranging from local community meetings to national conferences is creating some buzz, and appropriately, our time as one of Indiana's best-kept secrets is transitioning to an era in which we'll strive for greater awareness of our mission.

We are excited about the new opportunities that will result from our outreach initiatives and welcome your continued support as we grow stronger.



Dr. Jim Dalton
Vice President & COO

Volunteer and donor recognition

Nearly 250 of Damar's closest friends enjoyed an exciting evening of fun, food and social fellowship during the annual Volunteer and Donor Recognition Celebration on April 18. In recognition of Damar and the Indiana Pacers' shared 40th anniversary, the event was held at Conseco Fieldhouse and guests attended the team's final season game.

Damar executives **Greg Johnson** and **Dr. Jim Dalton** extended greetings and thanks on behalf of the 600 employees and 500 clients served on campus and in the community.



Quinn Buckner, Vice President of Communications - Pacers Sports & Entertainment, served as keynote speaker.

"Goodsearch" it for Damar

Help Damar build better futures for children and adults with developmental disabilities by using GoodSearch.com, a Yahoo! powered search engine that donates a penny per search to the user's registered charity of choice. Visit www.goodsearch.com and enter Damar as your charity. And remember to spread the word!



Save the date for summer fun!



Saturday, June 9
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



Tuesday, July 24
Noon to 2 p.m.

Volunteers needed!
To RSVP call 317.856.5201, email info@damar.org or visit www.damar.org for more information.