

OCTOBER 2007



Bright-eyed smiles, like Andrew's, were the theme of the day as clients zipped around the track with the members of the Mid-West Motorcycle Club.

Mid-West Motorcycle Club ride and picnic

Smiles spread as more than 40 members of the **Mid-West Motorcycle Club (MWMC)** and their families sponsored their annual picnic and ride for our very special clients.

As well as having a fundraiser to support DAMAR every year, the Mid-West Motorcycle Club spends one Saturday in September with the clients providing them with a lunch of grilled hotdogs and hamburgers followed by motorcycle rides around our walking track. The day starts out early for a few club members who arrive as early as 7:30 a.m. to begin cooking.

This year, the MWMC purchased and prepared a wonderful lunch for approximately 390 clients and their families as well as staff members.

The clients enjoy the lunch, but what they really love, evident by their wide grins, are the rides on the motorcycles. The club members bring extra helmets and allow the clients to ride behind them or in side cars on the motorcycles. They are very generous with their time, allowing most clients to ride as many times as they would like, often reaching up to eight times for some very eager and excited clients.

**Remember . . .
to turn in volunteer/intern hours
by October 5.**

*"One is not born into the world to do everything
but to do something..."*

— Henry David Thoreau, poet, writer, philosopher

Educational Surrogate Volunteers Needed



An educational surrogate represents the best educational interests of a DAMAR client.

Surrogates

attend a three hour training to understand Public Law 94-142 (school law) so that they can represent the client in his/her annual case conference where goals and objectives for the school year are developed.

Conferences are conducted in person either at DAMAR or the clients public school, or via conference call. They typically last about one hour. Surrogates must be available throughout the year during the school day and be at least 21 years of age.

For more questions regarding this volunteer opportunity, please contact me at 317-856-5201 or donnas@damar.org.

Thank you so much for all you do for the children and adults we serve here at DAMAR.

Sincerely,



Donna Stutler

Volunteer Resource Director

IUPUI Day of Caring volunteers make a difference

Fifteen students and staff participating in **IUPUI's Day of Caring** spent part of their day as members of our recreation staff.

The group worked with our middle school students during their gym classes. The students had a great time playing games with the volunteers. They did everything from kickball and basketball to playing with a campus favorite — the parachute.

Following the morning activities, the volunteers had the opportunity to share a little more time with our clients by having lunch with them in our cafeteria.

"Our team had a wonderful time with everyone at DAMAR! Both the students and staff were welcoming, energetic and committed to making sure our experience was exceptional. It's a great cause and a beautiful campus and we'll definitely be back!" said **Nathan Hand**, student from the Center on Philanthropy at IU.

"Having extra people to work with the clients makes our gym classes more enjoyable for the clients," said Jim Porter, DAMAR recreation director. "They enjoy meeting new people and sharing their day with them. And extra attention from someone who is not a paid staff person means the world to them. Often clients who generally would not participate in gym classes on their own free will step up and actively participate in gym classes when volunteers are involved."



Houston plays basketball with volunteer Channe'l Walters as they get to know each other.

Volunteer Success Story

Lesli and Nancy love the movies

In January when **Lesli Senesac** was presented with a new employment opportunity outside of DAMAR, she knew she could not leave behind the clients she had formed strong bonds with over her time as a staff, so she decided to become a one-on-one volunteer for Nancy. Nancy was one of the first clients Lesli had worked with during her time as a direct care staff.

"I think a one-on-one volunteer provides an opportunity for someone to do activities with a friend and to make connections with people in the community outside of DAMAR," said Lesli.

Lesli and Nancy do a variety of activities together — from shopping and eating out to going to family cookouts and church. Their favorite activity is going to the movies together, which they do very often. Nancy especially loved the movie "Underdog," which they saw this summer.

"I enjoy seeing Nancy's reaction when we do activities she enjoys. She is so joyful and appreciative," added Lesli.



Lesli's continued support of DAMAR is appreciated. Nancy has greatly benefited from her relationship with Lesli and will continue to for many years.

When it comes to creating the one-on-one bond, Lesli stated, "I think it is rewarding to be a volunteer. It provides so many opportunities for growth for the person they are volunteering for, as well as personal growth. One-on-one volunteers can make an important impact in a person's life in ways you might not realize, by just being there or helping them learn to play a game or going for a walk."

Giving Back

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in August by contributing 1,608 hours during the month:

Rebecca Anderson
Ryan Armye
Pam Ball
Sharon Barker
Brady Beach
Ruther Budhi
Miriam Carpenter
Erik Carson
Vicki Causey
Jane Cohernour
Nyla Cooper

Diana Douglas
Dorian Dotson
Jane Fultz
Michelle Gibbons
Julie Groseclose
Charlene Guthrie
Barbara Hittle
Angie Julius
Bridgette Kilgore
Michael Kilgore
Pete Koers

Kay Landis
Ashley Leavelle
Marty Lindgren
Nancy Lippens
Cara Luecking
Eric Luecking
Diana Mann
Aaryn Miller
Andrea Bobe-Napier
Mary Ellen Nease
Stephanie Nicolini
Renee Posey
Amanda Rodeffer
Sue Schenatzki
Andrew Seibert
Leslie Senesac
Laura Smith
Rachel Stephen
Debbie Swinney

Greg Swinney
Tracy Tharp
Jessica Trent
Stephanie VanLieu
Cameron VanSplinter
Richard Williams
Kim Wyatt

Groups

Butler University's
Ambassadors of Change
Butler University's
Bulldogs Into the Streets
Mighty Hands Puppeteers
United Way
Day of Caring
40th Anniversary
Event Volunteers

Mark Your Calendar October Special Events

Scrapbooking for Girls Transition Homes and Bradford House

Wednesday, October 10 6:30-7:30 p.m.

DAMAR Guild Dinner Dance

Saturday, October 20 7 p.m.

CYO Halloween Celebration

Sunday, October 21 6-8 p.m.

Evan Bayh's Youth Leadership Summit

Saturday, October 27 1:15-3:45 p.m.

Sertoma Hayride for Group Homes

Sunday, October 28 3:15 p.m.

Campus Trick or Treat

Wednesday, October 31 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Special Thanks Due

The word "bingo" rang out many times as several members of **IUPUI's Delta Sigma Pi-Kappa Sigma Chapter** played bingo with clients from our young and adolescent boys' service lines. The group members had a great time calling numbers and assisting the clients with playing the game. The clients enjoyed winning the prizes the group brought and spending time meeting the new volunteers.

Thank you to the **education surrogates** who have recently helped us review individual education plans. The help of these wonderful volunteers allows us to efficiently ensure that the educational needs of our clients are met while goals and objectives are planned for the upcoming year. This volunteer opportunity may not take much time but the time given is much appreciated.

Imagine. Engage. Achieve.

Remember . . .
Please turn in your
September volunteer/intern
hours by October 5.

New Look!

DAMAR Services, Inc.
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