

JANUARY 2008



Volunteers wrap clients' holiday gifts on December 17 in DAMAR's new gymnasium.

Gifts galore!

Over 1600 gifts were wrapped over two days with volunteers from Grace Community Church of Franklin, Grace Church of Mooresville and many others from our volunteer pool.

Every year clients receive gifts purchased by generous donations to our holiday fund. These gifts are all purchased by their staff and then bagged for volunteers to wrap. This opportunity is a huge undertaking and would take far too many

staff hours to complete. The volunteers' time helps make our holiday celebrations complete.

Everyone has a great time as they grab bags and wrap all items down to individual suckers and packets of gum. All of our clients love to open gifts, as all people do, so we wrap each item purchased for the client.

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

"Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others."

— Danny Thomas

Happy New Year!



This month has been quite busy for all of us with holiday volunteer events, holiday parties for the clients, donor contributions, and planning activities for second semester. I feel honored to work with such a wonderful group of individuals such as you.

At the end of first semester, we have many children who are transitioning back to their homes or foster placements. Thanks to the 1-1 volunteers who have worked and given countless hours to these clients. They were able to go home much faster because of your dedicated efforts.

With transition in occupancy, I have received numerous requests for 1-1 volunteers from managers and counselors who work daily with the clients. These children have little to no contact with their families and just need someone who will listen to them and become their special friend. If this is an opportunity that you might want to find out more about, please contact me at 856-5201 or donnas@damar.org.

Again, thanks for all of your support and kindness. May you and you families have a safe and happy new year!

Sincerely,



Donna Stutler

Volunteer Resource Director

Southport Middle School carolers bring gifts and joy

"Frosty the Snowman" rang out joyously on December 8 as staff members of **Southport Middle School** caroled on campus units and gave each child a gift. This was the school's fourth year to carol and provide gifts to DAMAR clients.

In the past, the staff have pulled together to purchase an item for each client. As the amount of clients we serve on our campus has grown, the staff looked to other avenues to help fulfill the growing number of gifts needed to provide each child with a gift. This year, the group tried a giving tree in their school and it was a huge success. The students, their families and staff pulled together and purchased all but 12 of the 123 gifts needed. The staff who caroled purchased the remaining gifts.

"We are delighted to spread joy and gifts to these kids every year. As long as I'm at SMS we will do this every Christmas," said **Stephanie Quinlan**, assistant principal at Southport Middle School.

Our clients look forward to the visit of Southport Middle School staff every year. They love singing along with the volunteers and having them visit them on their units. The generosity of the students, their families and the staff of Southport Middle School is much appreciated by everyone here at DAMAR.



Special Thanks Due

Fun was had by all on December 8 as members of **Butler's Delta Tau Delta and Delta Gamma** played board games with the campus members of our Adolescent Boys Service Line. All of the volunteers jumped in and played a

variety of games from *Twister* to *Sorry*. The boys had a great time with the volunteers and look forward to spending time with them again soon.

Continued on back

Volunteer Success Story

Zach shares his experiences as a doctoral intern

This fall, **Zach Parrett**, a doctoral student in clinical psychology studying at University of Indianapolis joined the DAMAR team. Zach has stepped up and become an important part of the Adolescent Boys Service Line carrying his own case load and helping clients on the two days each week he spends at DAMAR.

Zach knew when he did his volunteer interview at DAMAR there would be an opportunity for both professional and personal growth. He is grateful for the position he earned.

"DAMAR is actually one of the most highly spoken of internship sites available to our clinical psychology students. While it's a fairly new practicum relationship, each of the previous interns have raved about the experience. Along with the great supervision and guidance you're bound to receive, you have a chance to make a real impact in the lives of some special kids," said Zach.

Clients look forward to working with Zach and sharing the important experiences in their lives. His work is also appreciated by the other members of the clinical team for the Adolescent Boys Service Line.



"Zach is an asset to DAMAR," said Dessra Bragdon, clinical supervisor of DAMAR's Adolescent Boys Service Line. "He is always smiling and willing to help out wherever needed. He loves interacting with the kids and has really made an impression on some of the clients that we serve. He is also eager to learn and shows a passion for the work that we do."

Zach enjoys his work so much that he said anyone wishing to have his position would have to work hard to steal it because he is not sure he would ever want to leave. We hope all interns enjoy their experiences and learn as much as Zach has thus far.

Giving Back

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in November by contributing 1,067 hours during the month:

Becky Anderson
Ryan Armye
Pam Ball
Ruther Budhi
Miriam Carpenter
Vicki Causey
Nyla Cooper
Diana Douglas
Dorian Dotson
Jane Fultz

Michelle Gibbons
Candice Griggs
Charlene Guthrie
Barbara Hittle
Angie Julius
Pete Koers
Kay Landis
Julie Larsh
Ashley Leavelle
Chuck Lippens

Nancy Lippens
Cara Luecking
Eric Luecking
Diana Mann
Emily Meyer
Aaryn Miller
Cathy Morrison
Andrea Bobe-Napier
Mary Ellen Nease
Melissa Nufrio
Jamie Petty
Andrew Rhodes
Amanda Rodeffer
Robbie Ritter
Brittany Sears
Andrew Seibert
Leslie Senesac
Jenny Sledge

Alana Smalley
Laura Smith
Rachel Stephen
Debbie Swinney
Greg Swinney
Tracy Tharp
Heather Trusty
Stephanie VanLieu
Cameron VanSplinter
Kim Wyatt

Groups

IUPUI Alpha Phi Omega
Heaven Sent Clown
Ministry
Butler Alpha Phi Omega
Butler's Sophomore Class

Special Thanks Due (continued)

Santa and members of **Delta Theta Tau** visited with clients on December 11. The clients enjoyed having their picture taken with Santa and doing crafts with the ladies.

High school students of **21st Century Charter School of Fall Creek** volunteered their time on December 12 to help us prepare for our staff recognition luncheon.

Even small activities take a lot of work by volunteers. This year's **Santa Shop**, held December 18, was no exception. Several volunteers helped make this year's Santa Shop a huge success. They assisted with item collection and helping clients pick the best gift possible.

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) helps ensure our clients have a bright and happy holiday season. The tradition continued this year as the group accompanied by Santa, brought a gift to over 200 of our clients on December 19. They shared a yummy snack of holiday treats and soda as each client opened their gifts. The clients look forward to these CYO activities and appreciate the generosity of the organization.

This year the holiday season brought a new group of volunteers to our campus. Staff from **CP Morgan** made 16 clients very happy on December 20 as they made ornaments and gave each of them a special gift.

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Special Events

DAMAR Academy Resumes Classes

Thursday, January 3

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - No School for DAMAR Academy

Monday, January 21

IUPUI Martin Luther King Day of Service Volunteers

Monday, January 21

Imagine. Engage. Achieve.

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

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