

FEBRUARY 2008



**Randy and IUPUI
volunteers work
together to complete
relay tasks.**

Remembering To Make A Difference

Seventeen students volunteering through IUPUI's Martin Luther King Day of Service program, shared a few hours of their time on Jan. 21 to help Damar's recreation staff provide sporting activities for our campus residents. This is the fifth year Damar has benefited from the program, which engages the IUPUI community service projects with local non-profit organizations.

The volunteers spent the day leading

our adolescent boys through exciting relay races and team building exercises. They also cleaned the recreation building and enjoyed lunch in the cafeteria before touring Damar's campus to learn how clients benefit from our innovative programs and services.

"We're always excited when young people share their time and talents with Damar especially on a day of remembrance of Dr. King, who believed in creating a better

tomorrow for our children, even those with special needs," said Donna Stutler, volunteer resource director.

Damar embraces community volunteers and offers unlimited opportunities for individuals and groups to engage in our mission. For more information, contact Molly Wells at mollyw@damar.org or 317-856-5201 ext. 238, or visit damar.org/volunteer

**Remember to turn in your
January volunteer/intern hours
by February 5, 2008.**

"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience and just plain love for one another."
— Erma Bombeck

Excitement Bounds For 2008



Amazing. There's no better word to describe the countless good deeds of our holiday volunteers, which enabled our deserving clients to

experience true joy this holiday season. It wouldn't have been a success without all of you.

*Already this year, volunteers are doing great things at Damar. We've welcomed 21 college interns to the Damar family and are thrilled to be able to provide learning opportunities for students majoring in occupational and physical therapy, social work and psychology, physical education and other fields. Also, I am excited to introduce the **WAGS** (Working as God's Servants) group's animal therapy program as part of our volunteer effort. We look forward to having the owners and their pets visit our clients throughout the year.*

Planning is already underway for Damar's annual prom on May 15. We really need your donations of gently used men's suits, dress shirts, slacks, ties and shoes for our young men to wear on this occasion, as we are no longer going to rent tuxedos. Please ask your friends and family for donations as well.

My heartfelt thanks for everything you do for the children and adults at DAMAR.

Sincerely,

Donna Stutler

Donna Stutler

Volunteer Resources Director

Turning Scraps Into Special Memories For Clients

Diana Douglas believes that everyone should have a scrapbook and she's doing her part to help the girls at Damar create a special keepsake for their treasured memories.

Diana is part of a growing group of dedicated women who volunteer for Damar's Scrapbook Club, which meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. on campus.

Ashley Leavelle was Damar's special events intern when she helped establish the club last June, the same time Diana called our campus looking for a way to make a difference. An avid scrapbooker, Diana found her niche at Damar. She also donates money for the club's scrapbooking supplies, a gift matched by the foundation at Duke Energy, her employer.

"My favorite part is the look on the girls' faces when they really enjoy what they are making," said Diana, adding that she looks forward to her monthly bonding time with the girls and loves hearing the stories behind their

photographs, ticket stubs, event programs and other mementos.

Other club volunteers include Kenya McMillin and the mother-daughter duo of Shana George and Breanna Burk.

"It is just an awesome experience to spend time with the girls and to hear them laugh and tell stories," Shana said. "What the girls give to me through their happiness is much more valuable than what I give to them in terms of my time."

Volunteering for Damar's Scrapbook Club only requires commitment of about two hours per month. However, the opportunity to engage in a fun and rewarding activity with adult role models can significantly enhance the lives of the 50-60 girls who annually participate in the program. More details about the Scrapbook Club are available by contacting Molly Wells at mollyw@damar.org or 317-856-5201 ext. 238.



Shana and Heather have a great time picking out stickers for the page they are designing together.

Volunteer Success Story

Greg and Debbie Swinney a enjoy special bond with John

Last May, **Greg and Debbie Swinney** decided it was time to give back to their community and hoped for an opportunity that accommodated their desire to share their volunteering time. Recognizing that couples can provide positive relationship role modeling as well as support and guidance, Damar's volunteer staff eagerly matched the Swinneys with a client named John who could benefit from their active involvement in his life.

Greg, Debbie and John are a fantastic trio and spend nearly every weekend together. They enjoy fishing in the Swinney's favorite lake, attending auctions and cooking meals together. John is always excited about the Swinney family gatherings and particularly likes tasting the variety of good food. He especially liked spending the holidays at the Swinney house and helping cook breakfast Christmas morning.

John says "life is good" now that he has Greg and Debbie to look up to, and being able to depend on them encourages his good behavior. Greg and Debbie simply enjoy



being those people in his life – the ones who provide John with positive new experiences that enrich his life and broaden his knowledge of the world.

"I love to hear him laugh," Debbie said. "For the longest time, he didn't smile or laugh, and now he does all of the time. That is the best gift we ever could have gotten out of spending time with him."

Individuals as well as couples like the Swinneys can have a significant impact on the life of a child as one-on-one volunteers. If you have an interest in mentoring a client, please contact Donna Stutler today at donnas@damar.org or 317-856-5201 ext. 238.

GivingBack

The following volunteers for "giving back" in December 2007 by contributing 1,503 hours during the month:

Becky Anderson
Pam Ball
Ruther Budhi
Miriam Carpenter
Vicki Causey
Nyla Cooper
Diana Douglas
Dorian Dotson
Jane Fultz
Michelle Gibbons
Charlene Guthrie
Barbara Hittle
Angie Julius

Pete Koers
Kay Landis
Julie Larsh
Ashley Leavelle
Marty Lindgren
Chuck Lippens
Nancy Lippens
Cara Luecking
Eric Luecking
Diana Mann
Kenya McMillin
Nancy Mernone
Emily Meyer

Aaryn Miller
Cathy Morrison
Andrea Bobe-Napier
Mary Ellen Nease
Melissa Nufrio
Zach Parrett
Jamie Petty
Amanda Rodeffer
Robbie Ritter
Andrew Seibert
Leslie Senesac
Jenny Sledge
Laura Smith

Rachel Stephen
Debbie Swinney
Greg Swinney
Tracy Tharp
Stephanie VanLieu
Kim Wyatt

Groups

Butler's Delta Gamma
Butler's Delta Tau Delta
CP Morgan
CYO Holiday Celebration
Delta Theta Tau
Girl Scout Troop #800 –
Monrovia
Holiday Gift Wrappers
Santa Shop Volunteers
Southport Middle School Staff
21st Century Charter School

Remember . . .
Please turn in your January
volunteer/intern hours by
February 5, 2008.

DAMAR Services, Inc.
6324 Kentucky Ave.
P.O. Box 41
Camby, IN 46113



A Party In Paradise

The ladies of the Damar Guild enjoyed a free holiday tasting party at Castleton's Cheeseburger in Paradise, thanks to the generosity of the restaurant's manager who also supported the Guild's fall dinner dance. The celebration also marked **Barbara Belt's** last event as Guild president.

"I feel privileged to be involved with the Guild's mission to help the wonderful children

and adults at Damar," she said. "I look forward to participating in the many social and fundraising events we have planned for this year."

Look for information on upcoming Guild events in future editions of Giving Back Gazette.

For more information about membership in the Damar Guild, contact Donna Stutler at 856-5201 ext 235 or donnas@damar.org.

Mark Your Calendar Upcoming Special Events

Saturday, February 2, 2008
CYO Valentine's Day Dance
1:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 16, 2008
Guild Sponsored Skating Party at
Wheels of Wonder 5-7 p.m.

Sunday, February 24, 2008
CYO Dance Lesson 6-7:30 p.m.

Thank You for giving back
19,701 hours in 2007
