



(Left) Mandie Marine and Sarah Richardson presented the Easter Service. (Above) Kyla poses with the Easter Bunny.

## Volunteers Make Easter Special

Damar residents enjoyed an "egg-ceptional" Easter holiday, including a lively ministry service and a spirited campus hunt for thousands of brightly-colored eggs, thanks to several dedicated volunteers.

The Sunday morning service included a brief spiritual message and hymns led by first-time volunteers **Mandie Marine**, a graduate of Anderson University's pastoral program, and friend **Sarah Richardson**. It was followed by fun-filled search for more than 4,000 plastic Easter eggs, which **Southeast Neighborhood School of Excellence** teacher **Krista Blubaum** and her fourth grade class had pre-filled with candy and prize slips.

"My students loved it and they definitely developed team building skills as they went along," said Blubaum, another first-time Damar volunteer. "I hope future students in my class will also have the opportunity to volunteer for this project."

*"One-hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the type of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove; but the world may be different because I was a volunteer."*

— Author Unknown

**APRIL 27 - MAY 3**  
**National Volunteer Recognition Week**

Damar salutes the 1,500+ dedicated volunteers who annually share their time and talents in support of our mission.

## Happy Spring!



Spring has sprung; and with so many exciting events planned for the season, there are numerous opportunities for

you to join in the fun.

### Here's the scoop:

- Damar still needs adult mentors for the Birdies for Better Behavior introductory golf program for clients. Don't miss the first tee off on April 10.
- In partnership with Duke Energy and JF New Company, Damar is building a sensory garden near the new gym and conference center. The garden's design is inspired by the Chicago Botanical Gardens (CBG) outdoor enabling area. The garden will include wooden flower boxes, picnic tables, bird houses and other components. Construction will begin in April.
- Search your home, and ask your friends, family and co-workers, for any gently used men's suits, dress shirts, ties and shoes for young men to wear to Damar's annual prom. Bring unwanted clothing items to Damar's Family Services Administration Building on campus. Cash donations also are welcome.
- Damar is also seeking women volunteers, including professional cosmetologists, to assist 50 female clients with their gowns, hair, nails, make-up and jewelry for prom on May 15.

Remember, small acts of kindness can make a big difference; and the children, adults and staff at Damar sincerely appreciate your support. Sign up today to volunteer! Contact me at 856-5201 or [donnas@damar.org](mailto:donnas@damar.org).

Sincerely,

**Donna Stutler**

Volunteer Resources Director

## Clowns Bring Loads of Laughter



### Justin has a blast coloring Rascal's cocoon before he breaks out to become a butterfly.

The base gym was rumbling with laughter on March 15 as 12 members of the **Heaven Sent Clown** troop returned to Damar to perform another entertaining Bible-based variety show for residents.

**Smokey**, a client favorite, gave an energizing pre-show performance during which he pretended to trip over cords and shared side-splitting jokes with residents. The troop's performance also included a puppet show, songs and the ever-popular

knock-knock jokes.

"Of all the places we've been, Damar is one of our favorites because of all the caring we see and the positive interaction between our performers and the clients," said **Tom Lewis**, who performs as Rascal. "Heaven Sent Clowns loves Damar!"

The clients are looking forward to the troop's three additional performances scheduled for later this year.

## Special Thanks Due

The **Good Shepherd Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)** once again spent several hours on campus this month. On March 9, the group hosted bingo night for residents in both the Young Boys and Adolescent Boys service lines, and returned on March 30 to host the second of three dance lessons for the girls. We look forward to your next visit!

On March 27, Damar clients enjoyed competing in relay races with a group of collegians representing **Jaguars in the**

**Streets**, an annual occasion where IUPUI students participate in local community service projects. For several years, Damar has been selected as one of the students' favorite volunteer destination and we appreciate their support of our mission.

Students and faculty from the **Kelley School of Business at IUPUI** visited campus on March 22 and engaged clients in several exhilarating games of basketball. Thanks for sharing your time with us.

# Volunteer Success Story

## Nancy and Ryan share a special bond

Nancy Mernone's journey with Damar began in 1999 when she came to work as a direct care staff, a position she held for six years. Like many Damar employees, she developed a fondness for the clients with whom she worked and knew that supporting our important mission would always be a part of her life. Upon leaving Damar in 2005, she decided to become a one-on-one volunteer for a resident named **Ryan**. Nancy remains steadfast in her commitment to helping enhance his life.

Ryan is not only special to Nancy, but he also has strong friendships with her parents, husband and sons. Nancy says it is important to her that Ryan knows he always has a place to spend special occasions and holidays, and that he has friends on whom he can depend. In fact, Nancy helps Ryan keep in touch with former clients he befriended during their time at Damar, and often takes Ryan to visit them. They also go shopping and to dinner and movies.

"I will always be a part of Ryan's life – no matter where he lives or what he does,"



she said, adding that providing Ryan with encouragement and support has enriched her life as well. "The more I give, the more I get in return and I've never regretted a minute of the time I've spent as a one-on-one volunteer."

Adults interested in one-on-one

volunteering should take the next step and explore the benefits of having a personal relationship with a Damar client. Contact Donna Stutler today at [donnas@damar.org](mailto:donnas@damar.org) or 317-856-5201 ext 238.

## GivingBack

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in FEBRUARY 2008 by contributing 1640 hours.

Emily Adams	Crystal Cummings	Maria Hennigan	Jennifer Mihm	Melissa Prokopiak	Greg Swinney
Becky Anderson	Karsor Dennis	Barbara Hittle	Aaryn Miller	Jennifer Rich	Kellie Terwin
Pam Ball	Diana Douglas	Angie Julius	Tasha Moores	Robbie Ritter	Lindsey Tharp
Ruther Budhi	Dorian Dotson	Robert Keller	Cathy Morrison	Amanda Rodeffer	Jessica Trent
Breanna Burk	Connor Ertel	Anne Kohrman	Mary Ellen Nease	Ashlee Sachs	Andrew VanDyne
Lester Burris	Barry Evans	Pete Koers	Stephanie Nicolini	Andrew Seibert	Stephanie VanLieu
Morgan Campbell	Kevin Farley	Melissa Lewis	Charlene O'Rea	Marissa Simon	Beth Vincent
Mindy Cappleman	Shana George	Cara Luecking	Rebecca Orr	Jenny Sledge	Diane Walke
Miriam Carpenter	Michelle Gibbons	Eric Luecking	Zach Parrett	Greg Smith	Nikki Warholc
Vicki Causey	Alicia Goss	Nancy Mernone	Jamie Petty	Laura Smith	Kaitlin Whittinger
Nyla Cooper	Season Groninger	Emily Meyer	Tara Poole	Debbie Swinney	Kim Wyatt

### Groups

CYO

BUTLER FRESHMEN CLASS

INDIANAPOLIS HEBREW CONGREGATION

IUPUI'S DELTA SIGMA PI

**Remember . . .**  
 Please turn in your January  
 volunteer/intern hours by  
 APRIL 7, 2008.

Damar Services, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 41  
 Camby, IN 46113



# Mark Your Calendar

## Upcoming Special Events

Wednesday, April 9, 2008	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Scrap booking for GTU-L and Bradford
Thursday, April 10, 2008	3-7 p.m.	Prom Dress Fittings
Friday, April 18, 2008	6:30-8 p.m.	Beauty Night
Saturday, April 19, 2008	1 p.m.	Kickball with Alpha Phi Omega
Thursday, April 24, 2008	3-7 p.m.	Prom Suit Fittings
Sunday, April 27, 2008	6 p.m.	Final CYO Dance Lesson
Monday, April 28, 2008		Covenant Christian H.S. "Gone Servin" Day of Service
Wednesday, April 30, 2008	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Beauty Night with Church of Latter Day Saints

## MAY 2 500 Festival OneAmerica Mini-Marathon

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for Damar's Water/Gatorade Station.

Contact Donna Stutler today at [donnas@damar.org](mailto:donnas@damar.org) or 317-856-5201 ext 238.



If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or no longer wish to receive it, please contact Molly Wells at 317.856.5201 ext. 238 or [mollyw@damar.org](mailto:mollyw@damar.org).