

## Mt. Pleasant Baptist Youth Add Fun



In August, **Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church** youth leader **Justine Taylor** contacted Damar to find out if some of the church's youth could be of service. She was looking for a volunteer opportunity that would show them the value of giving back to their community. Since Damar is always seeking opportunities for clients to engage in pro-social peer interaction with others, the church youth were invited to host an event.

In September, the Mt. Pleasant youth along with **Pastor James Sells** and other church leaders hosted a kickball night for

### **Lucas plays parachute popcorn with the volunteers from Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.**

the teenage boys at Damar. While the rain came in and forced the event indoors, the clients and youth members still cheered on their teams and played a long game. The group asked that night for the relationship to continue on a monthly basis.

"Our youth learn empathy by witnessing how other youth live," said Pastor Sells. "They start to understand that Christianity is not about being in the church, but being the church!"

In October, the Mt. Pleasant youth group sponsored a split event. The young ladies made beaded necklaces and bracelets with clients in Damar's Girls Services program, while the young men played parachute popcorn games and ran relay races with Damar's boy clients in the gym.

Mt. Pleasant will return on Wednesday, Dec. 3 to host another split activity in observance of the holiday season.

*"I have been the recipient of love and service, therefore I can love and serve. There is great satisfaction in service to others, in...seeing people and their conditions change." Clarence E. Hodges*

# B2, I 31, N44, G50, O 69

by Amy Tenney, Guild Member



BINGO! We had a blast on Friday night, November, 7! The Damar Guild's Bingo Night was a huge success. Thanks to the willing volunteers and Guild members.

We had over 200 people, great food, a lot of prizes, raffles, and tons of fun. Many people had never before played Bingo while others were regulars and everyone had a blast trying to win some pretty cool prizes. The Guild was able to give away restaurant gift certificates, cash, DVD player, a digital camera and more. We also had a Wii and a 40" flat screen TV with a build-in DVD player up for grabs at the raffle table.

We had a lot of fun with each game announcer. Each one had their own style of calling out the numbers. Some animated, some fast, some slow, but all were kept in line with a crowd that was serious about making sure they got everything marked right. You could feel the tension as each game progressed. It would get quieter and quieter as the game went along. People were just hoping so badly that their final number would be called first. There were many people who couldn't do anything but stare at their cards while we walked around and offered tip board and pull tab chances to win instant cash. They were in the zone!

Master of Ceremonies Chris Akers did a great job of keeping the night very entertaining. I don't know about you, but I'm making sure I let more people know how to come and have a good time at next year's Bingo Night!

Thank you for helping us make our first Bingo Night a huge success.

**Merilee Andrews, a member of the Damar Guild, was excited about winning a game of Bingo.**

## Special Thanks Due

Crafts and songs filled the morning of Saturday, Nov. 1, as members of **First Free Will Baptist Church** brought parts of God's Big Backyard vacation bible school program to Damar. The volunteers sponsored four stations for clients: coloring and construction paper crafts, story session, painted sun catcher crafts and snack craft with story.

**IUPUI Service Learning Scholars** had the opportunity to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with the clients on Saturday, Nov. 1. Several rounds of Duck Duck Goose and parachute games were captured their attention during the early afternoon followed by a rousing game of basketball. The volunteers finished their day with a tour of the young boys unit so they could see how their Duck Duck Goose

partners live.

Several ladies of **Butler University's Alpha Phi Omega** were on campus on the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 2 socializing with our female clients. Together, the volunteers and clients made autumn-themed cardboard wreaths for clients to use as decorations in their residential units and homes.

Damar's Recreation department staff grew by six on Nov. 6 when volunteers from **Eli Lilly & Company** temporarily joined the staff to play and interact with many of our clients during designated gym class time.

Plenty of two-pointers were being made as clients from Adolescent Boys Service teamed up with **Butler University's Delta Tau Delta Fraternity** volunteers to play a few

rowdy games of basketball on the evening of Thursday, Nov. 13. This was the group's first time volunteering this year at Damar; they hope to return again next semester.

Some of our younger clients had the opportunity to share in some fun and games on the afternoon of Nov. 14 as the young ladies of **Mooresville Christian Academy's Girl Scout Troop** hosted their first event at Damar.

Feathers were flying on Saturday, Nov. 15 when a group of volunteers made turkey hands with clients. The afternoon activity was hosted by the **IUPUI Rotary Club**. Their time of fun also included colorful stories written with the help of the volunteers about the adventures their hand turkeys might have this Thanksgiving season.

# Volunteer Success Story

In early 2007 while searching the Internet, **Jeff Schabel** came across information on becoming a one-on-one volunteer at Damar. He shared the information with his wife **Toni** and together they decided that this opportunity could best fulfill their spiritual need to give back to the community.

By March 2007 the couple was matched with Lukas, an energetic young man who needed someone special in his life. Lukas, fondly known as Luke by the Schabel family, got very lucky. He not only was paired with one volunteer, Lukas was given the chance to become a close friend to a welcoming family of five.

"Getting to know Luke has been a lot of fun," said Toni. "He is such a great kid. It has been a good match for us and our children. He has a wonderful connection with them,"

Jeff added, "We feel blessed to have met such a warm loving child."

The Schabel's and their children **Cameron, 10; Bridgette, 7; and Morgan, 4;** were ready to help enrich another child's life. The family enjoys activities with Luke, who attends the Schabel kids' sporting events and cheers from the crowds at their baseball, softball, basketball and football games. Luke's favorite activities with the family are fishing and playing video games with Cameron.

"I feel like they are my family and they love me," said **Luke**. "They always say stuff to make me feel included."

"I think everyone has a responsibility to share love and spread the gospel," Jeff said. "If you enjoy building relationships and developing character, then volunteering is the answer. We went into this venture to help a child in need. In return, Luke has helped our family more than we can imagine."

Toni added, "It really makes you stop and think about how fortunate you are. We would like to think we had a hand in helping Luke become a wonderful young man. Luke has shined a light on our family and made us grow in so many ways. He will always be a part of our family."

Anyone interested in becoming a one-on-one volunteer or receiving information about other ways to make a difference in the life of a Damar client, should contact Donna Stutler at [donnas@damar.org](mailto:donnas@damar.org).



**Lukas joins Jeff, Toni, Cameron, Bridgette and Morgan for a family picture.**

## GivingBack

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in OCTOBER 2008 by contributing 1577 hours.

Rebecca Anderson  
Chris Baire  
Pam Ball  
Melvin Bolden, Jr.  
Syreeta Bond-Green  
Casey Branham  
Ruther Budhi  
Beth Calvert

Donna Clair  
Jennifer DeBolt  
Diana Douglas  
Barry Evans  
Colleen Fly  
Shelley Frederick  
Stephanie Garner  
Ron Gasvoda

Barb Hittle  
Danielle Hopwood  
Brittaney Humphrey  
Joe Kemp  
Polly Keown  
Jamie Kitron  
Lisa Knott  
Pete Koers

Kay Landis  
Melissa Lewis  
Marty Lindgren  
Nancy Lippens  
Cara Luecking  
Eric Luecking  
Krisy Mahome  
Megan Monday

Stephanie Nicolini  
Jamie Petty  
Shane Riddle  
Amanda Rodeffer  
Miriam Savage  
Lauren Schelle  
Jeff Schabel  
Toni Schabel

Betsy Shaw Elsasser  
James Slough  
Greg Smith  
Laura Smith  
Dustin Stewart  
Stephanie Weber  
Debbie Swinney  
Greg Swinney

### Groups

IUPUI Jags in the Streets  
Wabash Alumni Association  
Evan Bayh's Youth Summit  
UPS

Salvage Yard Christian Church  
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church  
Westside Sertoma Club  
IUPUI Service Learning Students

Pike Soccer Team  
Allied Group Insurance Services (AGIS)  
Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)

**Remember . . .**  
Please remember to turn in  
your November hours by  
December 5.

Damar Services, Inc.  
6067 Decatur Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46241



# Mark Your Calendar

## Upcoming Special Events

### Holiday Shop Til' You Drop

Saturday, December 6, 2008  
Damar Services from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Don't miss the chance to shop for these and other top name brands under one roof:**

Foxy Beads/ Scentsy • Homemade Gourmet • Tupperware • Footnotes  
Zuzen's Special T. Creations • Gold Canyon • Home and Garden  
Watkins Products • Mary Kay Products • AND MORE!

**\$10** shopper admission charge includes a **free lunch!**

### Santa Shop

Monday, December 15, 2008  
At Damar Services starting at 1 p.m.

Every year, Damar Services holds a Santa Shop allowing clients to choose a gift for someone. We are in need of donations for this year's shop. Items such as candles, frames, etc. would be much appreciated.

**For more information about these events, call Donna Stutler at 317.856.5201 ext 235 or email [donnas@damar.org](mailto:donnas@damar.org)**

**Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 10, 2008**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 11, 2008**

**7 p.m.**

**Friday, December 12, 2008**

**TBA**

**Saturday, December 13, 2008**

**10 a.m.**

**Saturday, December 13, 2008**

**TBA**

**Monday, December 15, 2008**

**6 p.m.**

**Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Activity**

**Scrapbooking for Bradford, Girls Base & GTU-L**

**Holiday Elvis Concert**

**First Free Will Baptist Church Activity**

**Holiday Gift Wrapping**

**Southport Middle School Holiday Carolers**

**CYO Holiday Celebration**



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).