

Hoops Highlights



The men of Butler University chapter of Delta Tau Delta have found an interesting way to bring a little excitement into the lives of Damar clients: they bring their “game” to the campus basketball court.

The fraternity first came to Damar in January. That positive interaction with boys in Damar’s Adolescent Boys Services prompted them to return twice in February and again in early March. Now the fraternity plans to shoot hoops at Damar every Thursday through April.

“I tell people that volunteering at Damar is fun, and the guys at Damar are better at basketball than me,” said Drew Steuer, Butler sophomore.

The men of Butler University’s Delta Tau Delta congratulate clients on working hard to win games.

Volunteering, he says, provides opportunity to learn new skills. “It’s important because it helps people do things that they may not have had a chance to otherwise, whether it’s playing basketball or rebuilding houses,” he says.

Fraternity member and Butler freshman Connor Bane regards volunteering in a more personal way.

“I am very blessed in my life, and I believe that I should give back to people who may not have the same opportunities.”

“All a kid needs is one person to hang on to. One person to see them, to listen, to care, to show up consistently. One person, that’s what I believe.” ~ America, character in the movie of the same name.

Spring volunteer



The flowers are beginning to peek out from the soil and trees are budding. It is a sure sign that spring is just around the corner and we are gearing

up for in the next few months.

There are many ways that you can make a difference at Damar this season. Please consider these opportunities and share them with your family, friends, coworkers and civic organization members:

- Plant flowers around campus or at one of our four group homes.
- Volunteer for Damar's Birdies Toward Better Behavior golf mentoring program and meet the clients at Southern Dunes on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m.
- Donate your unwanted fashion jewelry for the girls to wear to prom.
- Help repair bicycles on campus.
- Ask your beautician to donate their professional services to help our girls get ready for prom on May 14.
- Assist with the first annual spring cleanup of Damar's new multisensory garden.

Of course, there are many other ways you can help out at Damar. And, if you don't have time to volunteer, but are still interested in making a difference at Damar, please consider giving a donation in support of these very important activities.

Your comments, suggestions and questions are always welcome. Please contact me at donnas@damar.org or call 317-856-5201. Thanks for your continued support of Damar.

Sincerely,

Donna Stutler

Volunteer Resources Director

Scrapbooking Leads to Success

One Wednesday a month 10 volunteers and girls in Damar's Scrapbook Club gather in the campus cafeteria, decorating artsy pages with small momentos, stickers and glitter glue.

A quick look over each girl's shoulder reveals that, amidst the chit-chatting and laughter, they are focused on expressing their individuality on every page in their scrapbooks.

"I love magazines, especially Disney Adventures and Cosmo Girl," said Kyla, whose scrapbook is filled with images of Mickey Mouse and Hannah Montana.

For Kyla and other girls at Damar, being a member of the Scrapbook Club is about more than cutting and pasting pictures, letters and other keepsakes.

"It's about being a part of a group and feeling a sense of belonging," said Angie, Girls Services staff. "The girls on campus come together with the girls living in the community homes to share ideas and stories and laugh. They bond with each other and with the staff and volunteers who are here with them. It's a great experience for everyone."

The benefits of scrapbooking extend



Jenne shows part of her project to volunteer Ashley.

beyond the monthly club meetings. For many of the girls, their scrapbooks are a source of comfort when they feel frustrated or homesick.

"They'll work on their pages instead of acting out," said Susan, Girls Services staff. "They love their scrapbooks and they always want to show them to people."

Damar hopes to expand the Scrapbooking Club to biweekly meetings. However, more volunteers are needed to support the program. To volunteer or make a donation, contact Molly Wells at mollyw@damar.org or 317-856-5201.

Special Thanks Due

Catholic Youth Organization CYO, led by **Bernie Price** and **Mike Prestel**, hosted parachute games on March 1 and sponsored a St. Patrick's Day dance on March 13.

Starfish Initiative, led by **Bethany Warner** played basketball with boys in the gym and made springtime crafts with girls in the cafeteria on March 14.

Camby Chaos softball team, coached by **Cathy Hedges**, played basketball with their pen pals from Girls Services on March 18.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, led by **Pastor James Sells** and **Justine Taylor**, hosted a campus activity on March 25.

Butler University's Junior Class hosted

a dance and dinner at Hinkle Fieldhouse on March 28.

Dental students from **IU School of Dentistry's SEAL Indiana** program set up equipment to put sealants on the clients' teeth on March 26.

Center United Methodist Church made crafts with Girls Services clients on March 28.

Greenwood Middle School students, led by **Lu Dayment**, read stories to clients and donated 500 Easter eggs filled with candy and toys on March 17.

Krista Blubaum's fourth grade class at **Southeast Neighborhood School of Excellene (SENSE)** and the **Peace Club** at **IPS 49**, came to campus several days in March to help stuff Easter eggs.

Volunteer Success Story

Jamie Kitron is sitting on the couch in the living room of Damar's Young Boys residence. She opens the book that Clayton, the 10-year-old resident nestled next to her, has selected from the bookshelf and begins to read. Then Clayton gets another idea.

"What does this say?" he asks, pointing to the first word.

Jamie obliges and, word by word, helps young Clayton read the first sentence. He goes on to read the entire story. Closing the book, he immediately looks at Jamie for approval. Again, she obliges.

"You did a really good job, Clayton!" she says excitedly, giving him a high five.

Clayton responds with a huge smile that, for Jamie, reaffirms her decision last August to become a residential volunteer at Damar.

"I love the smiling faces that are happy to see me when I walk in the door, the hugs I get when it's time for me to leave and all the fun moments in between," said Jamie, who works as an accounting clerk in Zionville.

Radio commercials promoting volunteerism at Damar led her to the campus and she now spends about 10 hours a month helping out.

As a residential volunteer, she offers valuable support to Damar's staff by engaging in one-one-one activities with clients who benefit from special interactions with positive adult role models. Volunteers are assigned to a specific campus residence or community group home,



Clayton enjoys weekly visits from volunteer Jamie Kitron.

allowing them to build mutually rewarding relationships with a small group of clients and staff. More residential volunteers are needed.

"This is a unique opportunity that gives busy adults the flexibility to decide when they want to volunteer and how much time they want to give," said Donna Stutler, volunteer resources director.

"I like helping others and I live pretty close to campus," Jamie says. "After meeting with the staff and the boys at Damar, making the decision to volunteer was easy."

GivingBack

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in FEBRUARY 200 by contributing 1844.50 hours.

Lisa Adcock
Pam Ball
Michael Carter
Donna Clair
Jacob Cox
Chelsea Crago
Sarah Cravens
Bob Debolt
Jennifer Debolt

Ann Dillion
Diana Douglas
Emily Dubard
Stephanie Garner
Asaih Gayfield
Claude Goguen
Melissa Hill
Rachel Hinesley
Deanne Hite

Barb Hittle
Janell Holstead
Scott Keillor
Polly Keown
Kangmin Kim
Jamie Kitron
Pete Koers
Nicolie Kuhn
Erika Layer

Krisy Mahome
Erin Maksymczak
Janel Mattingly
Kayce Mattingly
Sara McDermand
Danielle Montoney
Benjamin Morgan
Gina Nicolini
Stephanie Nicolini

Sam Patterson
Kim Pawlecki
Jeff Schabel
Toni Schabel
Kathleen Shannon
Greg Smith
Laura Smith
Steffi Snyder
Rebecca Sutton

Debbie Swinney
Greg Swinney
Stephanie Weber
Lacey Werner
Jill Wichman
Kristen Williams
Sunwoo Ye Lee
Kelsey Young

Groups

Butler Delta Tau Delta
Girl Scout Troop 1955
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
Butler Bulldogs Into the Streets

University of Indianapolis Circle K Club
Salvage Yard Christian Church Youth
IUPUI Delta Sigma Pi

Catholic Youth Organization CYO
Camby Chaos Softball Team
Butler Alpha Phi Omega

Remember . . .
 Please turn in your March
 volunteer/intern hours by
 APRIL 8, 2009

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



Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Special Events

Wednesday, April 8, 2009	8:30-11:30 a.m.	Prom Dress Shop Setup
Wednesday, April 8, 2009	2:30-8 p.m.	Prom Dress Fittings
Thursday, April 9, 2009	9-11:30 a.m.	Prom Dress Shop Cleanup
Friday, April 10, 2009	6-8 p.m.	Butler Students Sponsor Night of Bowling
Saturday, April 11, 2009	2:45 p.m.	Heaven Sent Clowns Performance
Wednesday, April 15, 2009	8:30-11:30 a.m.	Prom Suit Shop Setup
Wednesday, April 15, 2009	2:30-8:30 p.m.	Prom Suit Fittings
Wednesday, April 15, 2009	6-7 p.m.	Camby Chaos Pen Pals
Wednesday, April 16, 2009	9-11:30 a.m.	Prom Suit Shop Cleanup
Thursday, April 16, 2009	5:45-7:30 p.m.	CYO Hosts Bingo
Friday, April 24, 2009	TBA	Covenant Christian High School Gone Servin'
Sunday, April 26, 2009	2:30 p.m.	CYO Movie Afternoon for Teens
Wednesday, April 29, 2009	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Activity
Thursday, April 30, 2009	varied	Wellness Fair

Ways to Give to Damar: Have a neat hobby (music, art, baking, crocheting, photography, ect.)?
 Share your hobby with the children at Damar or teach the kids about it and how to do it.