

Golfing Improves Skills, Builds Relationships



Golfing together for years now, Volunteer Jason Smock and his partner Randy walk to the putting green and reflect on past games.

For 35 youth at Damar, the Birdies Toward Better Behavior golf program is about more than developing their golf game; it's also about bonding with adult volunteers who care about their personal success – their ability to overcome challenges in the game of life.

“Birdies gives us an opportunity to use golf to teach these kids how to react to different scenarios,” said volunteer **Jason Smock**, who has served as a golf mentor since 1996. “That opens the door to talking about how to respond to different situations in real life.”

Damar Recreation Director Jim Porter said volunteers are key to the success of Birdies, a 16-week summer golf program created by Damar

in 2006 with grant money and equipment from the United States Golf Association and Indiana Sports Corporation. Over the years, the program has served 150 Damar golfers ranging in age from 12-22.

The golfers spend two evenings per week on the green, pairing up with 10 dedicated volunteers who help them build sportsmanship and character as they play their way around a par 3 course.

“Foremost in my mind is to give these kids an experience they wouldn't get otherwise,” said first-year volunteer **Chris Spangler**. “Giving someone else a positive life experience is a very important and a fun thing for both people.”

Mark Your Calendar Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009 • 12-2 p.m.
CYO Back-to-School Luncheon and Puppet Show

Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009 • 2-3 p.m.
Back-to-School Dance

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Scrapbooking for Bradford and GSL Transition Homes

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009 • 6-7 p.m.
Camby Chaos Pen Pals Activity

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009 • 12:30-3:30 p.m.
B.I.T.S. volunteers in recreation

“Teamwork allows common people to attain uncommon results.” – Anonymous

One-on-One Volunteers Needed



The summer is quickly coming to an end. School begins on August 10. There has been a great deal of change in clients both on and

off campus. With this change, I have received numerous of requests for One-on-One volunteers for clients in need of extra attention and support.

The Volunteer Resources program is designed to promote opportunities for mutually beneficial interactions and involvement for our clients and community volunteers. The One-on-One volunteer establishes a unique relationship with a client who has little or no other contact with family members.

If you are interested in this opportunity or know someone who would make a good candidate, please share the word. Only 10 hours of your time is needed each month to make a difference in a child's life.

I can be reached at 856-5201 or donnas@damar.org

Sincerely,

Donna Stutler

Volunteer Resources Director

Spirited Dancers Grace Damar



The team members pose for a quick picture after practicing for the night's performance.

The spirited energy known as the **Salvage Yard Christian Church Dance Team** boogied its way into the souls of Damar residents and staff on July 7 during the first of many to come dramatic, 45-minute mix of contemporary hip-hop Christian music, dance and sign language.

Kelly, a Damar resident who clapped and danced to every song, said simply, "They were awesome! I can't wait for them to come back."

The church's involvement at Damar began more than year ago when young women from the church joined Damar's monthly Scrapbooking Club meetings. The church has since expanded

its involvement to include other activities.

The Savage Yard performers include boys and girls as young as 10 and into their teens. They practice weekly and use their performances to inspire others to develop stronger spiritual relationships.

The dance team members plan to return to Damar to teach interested clients some of the dance moves and help them put the new skills to music for a performance at their church.

Special Thanks Due

Interns from **BKD, LLP** organized storage areas and participated in gym classes with residents on July 1.

Good Shepherd Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) sponsored yoga and basketball sessions throughout the month. The group also hosted a BINGO event on July 26.

The **Camby Chaos Softball Team** returned to campus on July 15 for their monthly pen pal activity with residents in Damar's Girls Services program.

Students in the **E201 micro-economics**

class at IUPUI volunteered in the recreation department on July 9, 14 & 16.

Ladies from **First Free Will Baptist Church** hosted An Evening of Beauty on July 24. Residents in Damar's Girls Services program enjoyed having their hair, nails and make up done by the volunteers.

The **Mighty Hands Puppet Team** entertained clients with music, puppets and stories during a performance on July 25.

Twenty-four college students presenting the national **Break Away: An Alternative Break**

program restriped parking lines, dug a long jump pit, assisted with Fair Day activities and participated in gym class with clients during the week of July 19. Break Away engages co-eds from universities across the U.S. in community service as an alternative to summer vacation.

Mission Indy volunteers brought the Vacation Bible School experience to Damar. From July 27-31, campus and transitional services clients engaged in spiritual lessons, craftmaking and recreation activities hosted by the group.

The Joy of Song

Damar Academy students received a special musical treat on July 13 when the **Lifesong Student Choir** performed on campus.

The 52-member choir represents Riverview Baptist Church in Bixby, OK, and includes youth ages 13-19. Damar was one of several stops on the choir's nine-day tour to youth-serving agencies and hospitals in St. Louis, Cincinnati, Nashville, Memphis and Little Rock.

"Anytime our students can interact with their peers and enjoy something new and exciting is a welcomed opportunity," said Aimee Brown, coordinator at Damar Academy. "The fact that these kids can from a different part of the country further enhances the educational experience for our students."



The young men and women of the choir offered the clients attending a break from summer school.

Fair Day Fun



Clients enjoyed building their batting skills at the baseball challenge game.

Brightly colored inflatable bouncers and canvas tents filled the center of Damar's campus on July 21 as clients and staff wandered excitedly from booth to booth, soaking in all of the festivities of Damar's 16th annual Fair Day.

The fun-filled day would not have been possible without support from 52 volunteers who helped with everything from setting up for the event to running the game tents and serving delicious elephant ears and lemon shakeups.

Volunteers included employees from **Wal-Mart** and **Quaker Oats, a division of Pepsi Co.**; interns from **Duke Energy**; and college students representing the national **Break Away: An Alternative Break** service learning program. Damar board member **Karen Snyder** and her family also volunteered.

GivingBack

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in JUNE 2008 by contributing 2486.5 hours.

Lisa Adcock
Bonnie Allen
Samantha Amick
Chris Baire
Pam Ball
Hannah Bennett
Wes Bickers
Brenda Bland
Amanda Budhi
Luther Budhi
Hailee Carter
Chris Chapman
Scott Colwell

Chelsea Crago
Justin Cranfill
Sarah Cravens
Christine Crewse
Rachel Davidson
Alexa Davis
Arthur Dodson III
Wendy Easley
Meagan Edwards
Kelsey Flannery
Colleen Fly
Jennifer Foster
Ashley Fuhrmann

Stephanie Garner
Claude Goguen
Amanda Hanley
Robin Heuss
Melissa Hill
Rachel Hinesley
Barb Hittle
Jenell Holstead
Roxanne Hood
Polly Keown
Jamie Kitron
Pete Koers
Christine Kuo

Jessica Lackner
Lisa Lawson
Chuck Lippens
Nancy Lippens
Megan Miller
Danielle Montoney
Diviya Moorjani
Andrea Newkirk
Gina Nicolini
Stephanie Nicolini-Borem
Jennifer Nichols
Kathy Niswander
Nicole Palmer

Jamie Petty
Ken Phillips
Robbie Ritter
Nicole Roberts
Mary Ruble
Jessica Sacks
Renu Samra
Jeff Schabel
Toni Schabel
Betsy Shaw Elsasser
Greg Smith
Laura Smith
Jason Smock

Chris Spangler
Laura Stahly
Alexandra Stanich
Shannon Stone
Rebecca Sutton
Debbie Swinney
Greg Swinney
Cole Uebelhor
Lori Waugh
Stephanie Weber
Jill Wichman

Groups

Camby Chaos Softball Team
West Side Sertoma

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)
UPS

Southside Bible Church

Remember . . .
Please turn in your JULY
volunteer/intern hours by
AUGUST 5, 2009

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



Ways to Give to Damar:

Help our students get ready to head back to class!

On your back-to-school shopping trip, please consider picking up a few must-have school supplies for the students at Damar Academy.

Mail or drop off your donations to:

Damar Services, Inc.
Attn: Molly Wells
6067 Decatur Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46241

Want to know more? Contact Molly Wells at 317-856-5201
ext. 238 or mollyw@damar.org



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