

Bikes and Burgers



Smiles and the sounds of rumbling motorcycles filled the Picnic & Ride event, hosted Sept. 12 at Damar by the Mid-West Motorcycle Club (MWMC).

Nearly 30 bikers treated Damar residents and staff to a yummy picnic lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob and chips before giving them an opportunity to ride on the back of a motorcycle around Damar's track. Vroom! Vroom!

While most residents enjoyed piggy-backing on traditional-style bikes, several youngsters anxiously waited their turn to ride in a sidecar.

"We fit each child with a helmet for safety,

Jacob catches a ride on the back of a red Harley during the Mid-West Motorcycle Club's annual Picnic & Ride event.

which also makes them feel like real bike riders," said Donna Stutler, Damar's director of Volunteer Resources.

Established in 1923, MWMC is Indiana's oldest motorcycle club and the sponsor of Indianapolis' annual New Year's Day Hangover Rally charity ride that raises thousands of dollars each year in support of Damar.

Thank you, Mid-West Motorcycle Club for supporting this event

Is your group looking for an opportunity to

make a positive impact in the lives of the children at Damar? Contact Mike Kraft at 317-856-5201 or mikek@damar.org for more information.

Mark Your Calendar Upcoming Special Events

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009 • 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Wabash College Day of Caring

Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009 • 3 p.m.-4:45 p.m.
CYO Hayride

Monday, Oct. 19 • 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
FFA Day of Service

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

~Elizabeth Andrew

Volunteering in America



I recently read an article from the VolunteerMatch online newsletter and I thought I would share some interesting information from this article with you.

Last November, it became clearer that the economy was headed over a cliff, an expert on public service predicted that at least 100,000 nonprofits would fail during the current downturn. This would drastically reduce funding from donors and charitable foundations.

Instead, the Corporation for National and Community Service states that individuals and organizations in the U.S. are collaborating much more proactively than they have in previous recessions. The result is that not only are more people volunteering, but they're volunteering in new and creative ways. In most cases, by working together with volunteers, many organizations have been able to maintain their service levels during a time of growing need.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is the federal agency in charge of promoting civic engagement through service and volunteering. In order to educate and inform the public and help organizations make better use of volunteers, the agency releases data and analysis about annual U.S. volunteering trends at VolunteeringInAmerica.gov.

Despite expectations that the recession would dampen public service, the U.S. volunteer rate actually stayed relatively stable from 26.2 percent in 2007 to 26.4 percent in 2008, representing a million more volunteers.

Our numbers here at Damar continue to grow thanks to you and your commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,

Donna Stutler

Volunteer Resources Director

Welcome Mike Kraft!

Damar is proud to introduce Mike Kraft as the new Volunteer Resources and Special Events Coordinator. Mike has worked as a professional volunteer administrator for over eighteen years. Before coming to Damar, Mike worked at United Way of Central Indiana's volunteer center. He has also led volunteer programs at the Indiana Historical Society, Wishard Health Services, Riley Hospital for Children, and American Red Cross.

Mike has been a long-time member of

CIAVA (Central Indiana Association of Volunteer Administration). He has also presents at workshops and conferences on a variety of volunteer management topics. Mike volunteers at his church and Riley Hospital for Children.

Mike holds a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Abilene Christian University.

Mike can be reached at 317.856.5201 ext. 238 or at mikek@damar.org.



Special Thanks Due

A huge thanks to the **Birdies Toward Better Behavior** golf program volunteers for another successful year of mentoring Damar clients on the greens. The group, supervised by Damar's recreation staff, ended the year with a chipping and putting competition, followed by a celebration dinner with tokens of recognition going out to the players and volunteers.

Decatur Central Middle School Soccer Team led by **Coach Thomas D. Iliff**, came out on Sept. 16 to conduct a training session for campus residents. Thanks for taking time during your busy season to host this exercise.

Thanks to the students of an **IUPUI Service Learning class**. They can out on Sept. 25, and participated in a gym class



Winding River Golf Course hosted the putting competition.

with our students. They were also briefed on how they can come back and help out by volunteering.

Super Saturday Day of Service



Student volunteers from UIndy work hard sprucing up the landscaping at Damar Services.

Sept. 19 was a beautiful day for landscaping, and students representing the University of Indianapolis' Super Saturday Day of Service were in full force to assist Damar's maintenance staff in preparing the campus grounds for the fall season.

Twenty-three UIndy Greyhounds arrived at Damar at 10:30 a.m. and worked hard until 12:30 p.m., removing mulch from a large hill near Damar's new main entrance. That area will later be planted with grass seed.

At the end of the event, Donna Stutler, Director of Volunteer Resources thanked them for their hard work and gift of time. T-shirts

were passed out to each volunteer as they cleaned up and talked about their accomplishments, tired muscles and sore hands.

Dan Stoker, UIndy's Executive Director of Student Service, and freshman **Emily Agee** commended Damar for providing an excellent volunteer opportunity for UIndy students.

"The UIndy motto is *Education for Service* and I believe that is what we, as students, are supposed to live up to everyday," Emily said. "We are here to help the community and surrounding communities. I thank Damar for opening their facility to us and allowing us to serve."

GivingBack

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in AUGUST 2009 by contributing 1199 hours.

Lisa Adcock
Bonnie Allen
Samantha Amick
Chris Baire
Pam Ball
Brenda Bland
Amanda Budhi
Luther Budhi
Christine Byrer
Hailee Carter
Jenna Castner

Mary Clifford
Amanda Colbert
Sarah Cravens
Christine Crewse
Riley Fore
Emma Friday
Ashley Fuhrman
Stephanie Garner
Amanda Hanley
Robin Heuss
Rachel Hinesley

Barb Hittle
Janell Holstead
Roxanne Hood
Jamie Kitron
Pete Koers
Christine Kuo
Megan Miller
Diviya Moorjani
Andrea Newkirk
Gina Nicolini
Stephanie Nicolini-Borem

Kathy Niswander
Nicole Palmer
Laurie Parker
Robbie Ritter
Mary Ruble
Betsy Shaw Elsasser
Greg Smith
Laura Smith
Jason Smock
Chauntee Spillman
Alexandra Stanich

Rachel Stewart
Shannon Stone
Chris Stoner
Rebecca Sutton
Debbie Swinney
Greg Swinney
Cole Uebelhor
Carley Wallace
Jill Wichman

Groups

CYO Rainbow Junction Players
Butler Bulldogs into the Streets

IUPUI Service Learning Leaders
Citizens Energy through the United Way Day of Caring

UPS

Salvage Yard Christian Church

Remember . . .
Please turn in your September
volunteer/intern hours by
OCTBER 5, 2009

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



September Volunteer Spotlight Opportunity:

Volunteer groups are needed to help assist Damar clients who are participating in group activities. Please let us know if your business, civic or community group can help.

Contact Mike Kraft at 317-856-5201 or mikek@damar.org for more information.

Ways to Give to Damar:

Winter is on the way and the children at Damar need your help keeping warm. Your donations of new gloves, socks, hats, and long sleeved t-shirts will go far to help keep the chill away.

Contact Mike Kraft at 317-856-5201 or mikek@damar.org to learn how you can make these donations.



Help Damar turn over a new leaf.

Sign up today to receive Damar's news and announcements via e-mail.

www.damar.org/joinourmailinglist



If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or no longer wish to receive it, please contact Mike Kraft at 317.856.5201 or mikek@damar.org.