

Damar Benefits from FFA National Days of Service

Damar Services was honored to be a host site for FFA's (Future Farmers of America) National Days of Service. FFA's annual conference in October brings over 50,000 students to Indianapolis. About 1300 FFA members shed their blue jackets to work at one of 10 service-learning sites around Indianapolis.

Enthusiastic and eager to work, 21 FFA members spent the day mulching the entry way to campus, removing brush and resurfacing the baseball diamond. FFA generously paid for the rental fee to use a piece of equipment called a Forestry Cutter to cut down small trees and bushes in addition to the mulch and gravel needed for the project.

"This particular group was a great asset to our grounds crew. They were hard working and needed only limited supervision due to their life learned experiences which obviously involved hard manual labor," said Jim Grass, Damar's supervisor of maintenance. Jim added, "As supervisor of maintenance personnel for over 25 years, I must say that this was one of the most helpful, motivated and energetic groups that I have ever had the pleasure of working with."

FFA volunteers not only gave, they had a learning experience too. Before starting to work volunteers received an orientation and learned about Damar and its mission. They also received a welcome from some of Damar's clients. The day ended on a high note with FFA volunteers playing



FFA members work hard moving mounds of mulch.

a vigorous game of basketball with clients.

Adrienne Boyette, FFA member from Live Oak, FL, said volunteering at Damar was a unique opportunity to work in an environment that was new to her. "It was exciting to interact with people who are different but the same as me, too. Volunteering here was an awesome opportunity," Adrienne said.

Mark Your Calendar Upcoming Special Events

Friday, Nov. 6, 2009 • 8:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.
Accenture Day of Service

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009 • 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
University of Indianapolis Circle K

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009 • 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
IUPUI Office of Community Service

Friday, Nov. 20, 2009 • Noon-4 p.m.
Rolls-Royce North America Service Day
and Team Building

Love life, engage in it, give it all you've got. Love it with a passion, because life truly does give back, many times over, what you put into it." – Maya Angelou

Moving into the Busy Holiday Season



The bright vivid colors of fall leaves are falling to the ground. This is a true sign that the winter season is just a few weeks ahead and our all gears are moving

forward in the planning and coordination of the holiday season.

In early November, you will be getting a holiday appeal envelope. Please consider a donation which will allow us to purchase gifts to fulfill a child's wish list. A gift of \$75.00 to the Damar Holiday Fund will help a child have a memorable holiday season filled with joy and excitement. Please consider fulfilling a child's wish when you begin your planning for the holiday season.

On December 12, 2009 starting at 9:30 in our gym, volunteers are needed to help wrap presents that will be placed under the tree for Christmas. Individuals, families (must be at least 14 years old), and groups are encouraged to be part of this special volunteer opportunity. I ask that volunteers bring their own scissors, tape, and a few roles of holiday wrap.

To sign up or for more information, contact Mike Kraft at 317.856.5201 or mikek@damar.org.

Sincerely,

Donna Stutler

Volunteer Resources Director



Damar Flag Football Tournament

A beautiful, crisp fall Saturday greeted 11 **Special Olympics Indiana** teams that participated in a football tournament hosted by Damar. Over 200 people enjoyed the 10 games that were played on Damar's new soccer field.

The football games were refereed by volunteers with the **National Association of Wabash Men**, the alumni association of Wabash College. Led by **Tim Craft**, the group's participation was part of 2009 Wabash Alumni national day of community service.

Teams that participated were the Cougars from Carroll County, the Cowboys from Clark County, the Hurricanes, Lightning, Storm and Thunder from Damar, the Fire from Lake County, the Cubs and Cougars from Putnam County, and the Hooligans from Shelby County.

A very special thank you to **Value Market of Mooresville** for their generous donation of food used at the event.



Wabash men proudly display their alma mater's flag .

Special Thanks Due

What better way is there to enjoy fall's cool temperatures and the turning colors of leaves than a hayride? Damar clients had not one but two hayrides in October. Volunteers from **Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)** brought a John Deere tractor and wagon complete with hay bales to Damar and invited clients to take a spin around campus. CYO volunteers gave out "Boo Bags" filled with yummy candy.

Similarly, residents of Damar's group homes were treated to a hayride at Eagle Creek Park provided by the **Westside Sertoma Club**. After the hayride, participants were treated to hot dogs, cookies and yummy apple cider.

Thanks so much to both CYO and



Damar clients enjoy catching a hayride.

Westside Sertoma Club for your generosity and sharing a very enjoyable time with Damar clients.

Senator Bayh's Service Leader Summit Helps Damar



High school service leaders spent a fun afternoon helping Damar clients to roller skate.

To recognize the efforts of Indiana's extraordinary high school student volunteers, **Senator Evan Bayh**, along with IUPUI, hosted a Service Leader Summit coinciding with October's National Make a Difference Day.

Many students donate their time and energy to improve the lives of others in their communities. The Student Leader Summit brings these youth from around the state together to thank them for their work and help increase volunteerism in Indiana. Their actions have a tremendous impact on the future path of their communities and the lives of their fellow Hoosiers.

The Service Leader Summit included a presentation from Senator Bayh and other community leaders, a leadership lunch and a service project benefiting Damar. The service project consisted of a skating party at the **World of Wonder Roller Skating Rink**. For many Damar clients, this was their first opportunity to roller skate. Student volunteers helped clients with their skates and steadied them while they took their first skating strides.

Many thanks go to the World of Wonder Roller Skating Rink and IUPUI for their generous in-kind donations.

GivingBack

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in **SEPTEMBER 2009** by contributing **1233** hours.

Lisa Adcock
Chris Baire
Pam Ball
Amanda Budhi
Ruther Budhi
Christine Bryer
Hailee Carter

Christine Crewse
Intisar Fidhin
Janell Holstead
Jamie Kitron
Pete Koers
Marty Lindgren
Danielle Montoney

Diviya Moorjani
Gina Nicolini
Susan Parker
Jamie Petty
Heather Reckerd
Robbie Ritter
Brena Sachs

Jeff Schabel
Toni Schabel
Ashley Shot
Ashley Schort
Chauntee Spillman
Rachel Stewart
Chris Stoner

Rebecca Sutton
Joshua Vet
Debbie Swinney
Greg Swinney
Carley Wallace
Jill Wichman

Groups

IUPUI Education Class

University of Indianapolis

Mid-West Motorcycle Club

Decatur Middle School Soccer Team

Remember . . .
Please turn in your October
volunteer/intern hours by
NOVEMBER 5, 2009

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



Save the Date!
Saturday, February 20, 2010

I ♥ DAMAR
*Damar Guild
Dinner Dance*

Murat Shrine Temple
6 p.m.
\$75 per person / \$150 per couple

Sponsorship opportunities available!
Donna Stutler, Volunteer Resources Director
317.856.5201 or donnas@damar.org



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