

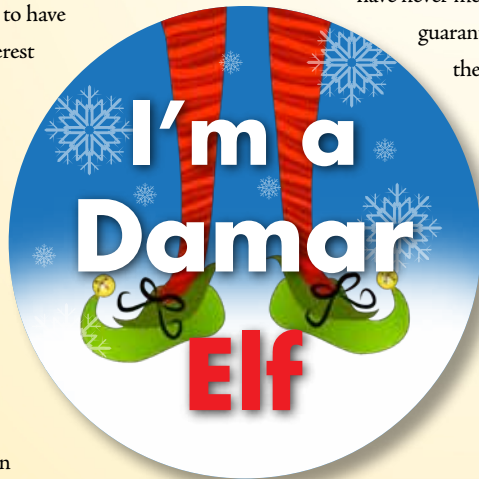
Shoppers Delight

Damar Elves were busy in December working on a special mission: Christmas gift shopping for 300 deserving Damar clients. With clients' holiday wish lists in hand, 120 dedicated volunteers spent two evenings walking the aisles of Walmart in Camby in search of the perfect action figures, dolls, video games, CDs and other gift items.

In addition to graciously providing treats for volunteers, Walmart set up special check-out lanes just for Damar volunteers to use. Making the shopping experience even more fun was the fact that shoppers didn't spend their own money. Damar's Holiday Fund, made up of donations from individuals, companies and civic organizations, paid for the gifts.

Asked why she volunteered to shop, **Becky Siegman** said, "I think it is very important for a kid to feel special and to have someone take a special interest in them. They need a personal touch and I know how hard I try for my own kids. I just wanted them to feel loved as well."

Mary Kay Hood said that shopping for Damar allowed her "to take time during the holidays to help someone in need. And it only cost me my time."



Damar Elves at work shopping for client Christmas gifts at Walmart.

Why should someone volunteer to help shop next year? **Kristin Duke** said, "Even if people have never met any of the clients, it is guaranteed that they will leave the store that day with the satisfaction of knowing that they also helped make a wonderful Christmas possible for these kids." Job well done, Damar Elves!

Mark Your Calendar Upcoming Special Events

Tuesday, Jan. 12 • 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints –
Damar Game Night

Monday, Jan. 18 • 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
IUPUI MLK Day of Service

Thursday, Jan. 21 • 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
IUPUI Delta Sigma Phi - Damar Game Night

Sunday, Jan. 24 • 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
CYO Damar Bingo

Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 • 6 p.m.
Damar Guild Dinner Dance
at Murat Shrine Temple

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Timing is everything.



I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. The month of December was full of joy for the clients. Volunteers made a huge difference!

This month we are launching a new and improved process for tracking volunteer involvement at Damar by implementing the Volgistics volunteer management software.

Volunteers and interns will sign in and out of the system using a kiosk located in the Damar Services Center lobby. It's a quick and easy sign-in process that, among other benefits, electronically logs volunteer hours.

Documenting volunteer hours is important for many reasons. Foremost, we want volunteers to have the best possible "giving back" experience. Understanding every aspect of your involvement at Damar helps us make sure that happens.

Another important reason is that many Damar supporters, especially charitable foundations and other donors, want to know how the community is involved in our mission. Volunteer engagement is one of the many ways that they measure our effectiveness and efficiency as an organization. Some supporters even require that Damar match a percentage of grant funds, and the relative value of volunteer time often satisfies that dollar match requirement. So in essence, your valuable support to Damar enables us to receive additional support from other resources and so much more.

I hope you'll find our new volunteer tracking system efficient and easy to use. And, I'm always available to talk if you have any questions or comments at 856-5201 or donnas@damar.org.

Sincerely,

Donna Stutler

Volunteer Resources Director

It's A Wrap!



Volunteers get all wrapped up in their work helping at Damar's annual gift wrapping event.

The Grinch was a no show at Damar's annual holiday gift wrapping extravaganza in December when more than 100 volunteers gathered in the gym to wrap hundreds of Christmas presents selected earlier in the month by volunteer shoppers.

Families, students from **Lebanon, Decatur**

and **Mooreville High Schools**, church groups and corporate volunteers alike participated in the event. Many volunteers even brought their own wrapping paper and supplies.

Thank you to all who made this event a huge success!

Special Thanks Due

December was a full month with several groups supporting Damar in a variety of ways. Clients enjoyed dancing at a sock hop courtesy of **Butler University's Class of 2012**.

Super volunteers from **UPS** spent part of their Saturday decorating Damar's main lobby area for the holiday season.

Members of **Delta Theta Tau Sorority** brought Santa and his elf for a visit to campus. Clients sat on Santa's lap and participated in a craft activity.

Back for their fifth year, **Southport Middle School** staff members and families made joyful sounds singing carols and playing the hand bells for clients. They brought with them gifts and made a cash donation of \$112.39.

A special evening was had when Santa and his helpers from **Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)** distributed gifts of hooded sweatshirts and snacks to 141 clients. CYO also donated 40 pairs of tennis shoes plus 15 DVD players and 100 DVD's that were given to the residential units on campus.

Joining us again for the annual **Elvis** concert were members of the **Original Circle City Corvette Club**. The club generously gave \$500 for the snacks given to clients and made sure Santa arrived safely to greet the audience at the end of the concert.

Also, a special thank you to **Erricka Jones** for being the DJ at the sock hop and taking photos at Delta Theta Tau's Santa visit.



Members of the Original Circle City Corvette Club were a big help at the annual Elvis concert.



Participants enjoy a moment with Santa at CYO's Christmas party.



Southport Middle School staff and family sing carols to Damar clients.



Members of Delta Theta Tau Sorority pose for a picture with Santa and his elf helper.

GivingBack

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in NOVEMBER 2009 by contributing 1382 hours.

Jeaneen Adams
 Lisa Adcock
 Bonnie Allen
 Pam Ball
 Donnika Berryhill
 Amanda Budhi
 Ruther Budhi
 Hailee Carter

Christine Crews
 Alexa Davis
 Intisar Fidhin
 Riley Fore
 Emma Friday
 Berdina Grady
 Barb Hittle
 Jenell Holstead

Roxanne Hood
 Pete Koers
 Erin Kujawski
 Kay Landis
 Marty Lindgren
 Chuck Lippens
 Nancy Lippens
 Danielle Montoney

Gina Nicolini
 Heather Reckerd
 Robbie Ritter
 Abrara Rogers
 Brena Sachs
 Jennifer Sands
 Chauntee Spellman
 Rachel Stewart

Debbie Swinney
 Greg Swinney
 Chris Stoner
 Joshua Vet
 Cole Uebelhor
 Tamara Wilson-Anderson

Groups

Accenture University of Indianapolis Circle K
 IUPUI Real World: Overnight Experience

Apostolic Christian Church
 Butler University Circle K

Salvage Yard Christian Church
 Rolls-Royce North America

Remember . . .
Please turn in your December
volunteer/intern hours by
JANUARY 10, 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

Register online today at www.damarguild.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 mikek@damar.org.