



Let's Play a Game!

Everybody wins when it's game night at Damar Services.

Clients and volunteers alike can benefit when they get together for an evening of playing board and other table games. Game night gives clients an opportunity to socialize with each other and volunteers that participate. The activity also provides clients with learning opportunities. Games teach young people important life skills such as patience, concentration, teamwork and perseverance. By taking turns, following rules and even losing a game, clients learn skills that they can apply in other areas of their lives.

Groups that volunteer supporting our clients benefit, too. A professional business fraternity from IUPUI, Delta Sigma Pi — Kappa Sigma Chapter, pictured above, recently hosted a Damar

game night. "Giving back to the community is a big part of the chapter but it also helps develop us as a person," said sophomore **Adam Keyler**.

Thirteen members from the group played a variety of games with clients that included Connect Four, Jenga, chess and Uno. **Michael Kelsch**, a senior, said volunteering at Damar was both an opportunity to serve others and "to interact and connect with fellow students outside of class."

The main reason why everybody wins at game night is easy to understand. A good time is had by all! If your group is interested in volunteer opportunities at Damar, please contact Mike Kraft at 856-5201 or mikek@damar.org.

Mark Your Calendar Upcoming Special Events

Saturday, Feb. 6 • 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Damar Guild Skating Party

Wednesday, Feb. 10 • 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Salvage Yard Christian Church – Scrapbooking
Damar Family Services Building

Friday, Feb 12 • 7 p.m.
Indiana Ice vs. Des Moines Buccaneers; proceeds benefit Indy Damar Twisters
Pepsi Coliseum

Sunday, Feb. 14 • 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
CYO Valentine's Dance
Damar Gymnasium

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

Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and help them become what they are capable of being. – Goethe

Damar Hockey and Dancing



Thank you for your ongoing support of Damar Services. We are so blessed to have such good folks like you and others who devote time to our

mission and the special population we serve.

I want to call to your attention two upcoming Damar events and encourage you to participate in one or both of them. We have partnered with the Indiana Ice and will showcase our special needs hockey team, the Indy Damar Twisters on February 12, at a game between the Ice and the Des Moines Buccaneers. Game time is 7:05 p.m. and tickets are \$15 or \$9 each. To purchase tickets, call 317-557-7440 or go to www.indyspecialhockey.org. Ticket proceeds will benefit the Indy Damar Twisters.

Also this month, our premier fundraising event is scheduled the following week on Saturday, February 20, 2010. The Damar Guild will host the "I Love Damar Dinner and Dance." This will be a fun evening of dinner, dance and silent auction to raise critical funding for our mission. The cost of tickets is \$75 per person and \$150 per couple. Register for the event online by going to www.damarguild.org. If you can't make the event, please help us to locate sponsors and direct us to businesses or companies who might be willing to provide gift items for our silent auction. All proceeds will go directly to the clients we serve. For more information you can contact me at 856-5201 or donnas@damar.org.

Again, thank you for your great work and we hope to see you at an upcoming event.

Sincerely,

Donna Stutler

Volunteer Resources Director

Take a Plunge for a Good Cause

For many years, Damar clients have participated in a variety of **Special Olympics Indiana** sporting activities. The annual Polar Plunge is a unique fundraising event for the warm at heart. Participants must raise a "bear" minimum of \$75 (\$50 minimum for students with student ID) to take a daring dip into Indiana's winter waters.

The Indianapolis Plunge will be on February 28, 2010, at Eagle Creek Park. To register, go to <http://soindiana.org/?TabId=250>, and click on Polar Plunge Registration. You will be plunging with "Team Damar" and the captain is Jim Porter. Please let Jim know you have registered by contacting him at jimp@damar.org or 856-5201.

Thanks for helping a great organization that does much to support our clients.



Freezin' For A Reason

Special Thanks Due

Clients enjoyed an evening playing board games courtesy of a youth group from **Avon Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**. The group provided yummy snacks, too.

Making a difference is what nine students

did who participated in **IUPUI's Martin Luther King Day of Service** on January 18. Students cleaned inside the pool building had a great time playing kickball with our clients.

Do you have a friend or family member who could lend a hand? Damar has needs for people skilled in the following areas to help with upcoming special events and activities:

- Beauticians/barbers
- Artists
- Woodcrafters
- Painters
- Crafters
- Professional Dry Cleaner
- Seamstress/Tailor
- Photographer

Ways to give to Damar:

- Costume jewelry for annual prom
- Spring jackets
- Basketballs, soccer balls and volleyballs
- Table games
- Personal hygiene items
- Coloring books and crayons
- Books for scrapbooking
- Bingo supplies
- Easter candy
- Plastic Easter Eggs

Please contact Mike Kraft at 317-856-5201 or mikerk@damar.org if you can help us with any of these items. Thanks for your support!

A January Well Spent

Franklin College students, Ashlynn DeWitt and Alex McKenna, spent the month of January interning at Damar. College internships last one, maybe two semesters. However, students at Franklin College can earn four credit hours if they successfully complete 120 intern hours.

Ashlynn DeWitt interned in the Advancement Department. She chose to intern at Damar because of her connection to its services, passion for the mission and her own experiences. Her father is David DeWitt, Director of Advancement. "I wanted to do an internship where the mission fit my personality," Ashlynn said. "Damar gives opportunities to those who face challenges similar to my two sisters."

Working with Allyson Wells, Grant Administration Director, Ashlynn gained experience working with database and grant management, gift processing and support of fund raising events. Ashlynn would like to pursue a career in non-profit fundraising after graduating in May.

Alex McKenna spent January interning with Dan Powroznik, an instructor at Damar Academy. Alex served primarily as a tutor in his classroom, assisting and managing students' behaviors and encouraging them to be positive in their thoughts and actions.

Dan said, "Alex gained valuable experience working 1-on-1 with a population that mirrors the one she is considering serving after she finishes her degree in social work and other necessary coursework and licensing requirements. She also gained insight as to what a manager might look for and expect from her future employment opportunities."

Alex plans to graduate from Franklin College in 2011 with a bachelor's in sociology/social work with a minor in Spanish, and pursue a master's degree in social work

"Interning at Damar has been a very rewarding experience. I was originally not interested in behavioral and mental disabilities but, now it is a field that I am interested in pursuing further," Alex said. "Damar is now a place that I would consider being choosing as a place of employment. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience.



Ashlynn DeWitt



Alex McKenna

Thanks Ashlynn and Alex for your good work this month!

GivingBack

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in DECEMBER 2009 by contributing 1,245 hours.

Jeanee Adams
Lisa Adcock
Kathy Albright
Bonnie Allen
Pam Ball
Kortney Crawford
Christine Crewse

Alexa Davis
Diana Douglas
Marilyn Greenwood
Barb Hittle
Jenell Holstead
Roxanne Hood
Pete Koers

Marty Lindgren
Chuck Lippens
Nancy Lippens
Danielle Montoney
Cathy Morrison
Dorman Morrison
Jessica Mungro

Gina Nicolini
JoAnn Renner
Jeff Schabel
Toni Schabel
Sam Patterson
Robbie Ritter
Abrara Rogers

Jennifer Sands
Rachel Stewart
Chris Stoner
Rebecca Sutton
Joshua Vet
Tamara Wilson-Anderson

Groups

Butler Class of 2012
Delta Theta Tau

Damar Shopping Elves
Santa Shop Helpers

UPS
CYO

IPS 49 Peace Makers Club
The Original Corvette Club of Indianapolis

Southport Middle School Staff

Remember . . .
Please turn in your JANUARY
volunteer/intern hours by
FEBRUARY 8, 2010

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



Join Us!
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.