

An Unselfish Spring Break



Students at Florida International University spent their spring break working hard at Damar Services.

Spring break for many college students means just that – a break from classes, studies and exams. However, for three college groups, traveling to Indiana in March was how they chose to spend their spring vacation.

Known as alternative spring break trips, groups of college students engage in volunteer service, typically for a week. Students learn about the social issues and then perform week-long projects with local non-profit organizations.

Damar hosted students from **Eastern Michigan University (EMU)**, **Baldwin-Wallace College (B-W)** and **Florida International**

University (FIU). Each group worked hard at the various tasks they were assigned. Students from EMU spent many hours scrubbing and cleaning the pool area. The B-W group helped with St. Patrick's Day decorations and organized prom clothing. And the FIU group gave one of Damar's residential units an "extreme makeover," creating Hannah Montana and High School Musical-themed decorations plus assisted with getting bicycles ready for summer.

Jamila Felder from EMU had an opportunity to observe one of Damar Academy's teachers and said, "I have a totally new appreciation for Damar,

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, April 4, 2010 • 10 a.m.
Easter Service and Egg Hunt
Damar Gymnasium

Tuesday, April 6, 2010 • 3 p.m.-7 p.m.
Damar Prom Dress Fitting
Damar Gymnasium

Thursday, April 8, 2010 • 3 p.m.-7 p.m.
Damar Prom Suit Fitting
Damar Gymnasium

Friday, April 9, 2010 • 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
BKD Day of Service

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 • 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Salvage Yard Christian Church – Scrapbooking
Damar Family Services Building

Friday, April 23, 2010 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Covenant Christian High School Gone Servin'

Saturday, April 24, 2010 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wellpoint Day of Service

Sunday, April 25, 2010 • TBD
CYO Luncheon

it's teachers, and the work they do." She added, "The teachers have much responsibility and great patience."

Each spring break group spent time interacting with clients. "I was really impressed with staff and how positive they are," said **Abby Joyce** from B-W. Another B-W student, **Kaylee Burke**, said, "The time spent at Damar helped reinforce my choice of majors." Kaylee is studying to be a physical therapist and wants to work with special needs clients.

Spending a week in March in chilly Indiana was definitely an experience (*continued on page 3*)

Spring is Here!



Spring has sprung and it's time for warm weather, spring cleaning, the smell of fresh flowers, and changes in apparel. I don't know about you, but I have been

looking forward to this time for a couple of weeks now. Thank goodness this time has arrived.

In this issue we shared with you news about our alternative break students. This was such a great experience for Mike and I. We enjoyed greeting them each morning and sharing the days work agenda. They were all so easy going and hard working along with working with such enthusiasm and motivation.

The extreme makeover idea for one of the units was a very exciting assignment to share. The students pulled their thoughts together to come up with the theme and execution of the decorating. Since this assignment was so well received, we have decided to open this volunteer opportunity up to groups. If you are part of a church group, sorority or fraternity, club or want to spend some extra time together with some friends, this is the volunteer opportunity for you. You can help decide how to make a unit come to life with a new theme. We will be happy to take your group on a tour of the unit so that you can make a theme decision. You can then head home and put your group's thoughts to work. Once done, you can come back on campus and hang the decorations. As I stated earlier, let's help make some smiles on the kids faces by giving a unit a new decorating face lift. For more information about this opportunity, you can contact Mike Kraft at mikerk@damar.org or 856-5201.

If you have a new idea or would like a specific volunteer opportunity fine tuned to meet your needs, please feel free to contact me at donnas@damar.org or 856-5201.

Sincerely,

Donna Stutler

Volunteer Resources Director

Giving Back

Thank you to the following volunteers for "giving back" in FEBRUARY 2010 by contributing 1575 hours.

Sarah Alte
Sara Baldwin
Pam Ball
Kyrie Black
Amanda Budhi
Ruther Budhi
Nicole Butler
Erin Cantrell
Haliee Carter
David Carson
Jan Ann Caudill
Emily Courtney

Christine Crewse
Ashley Davidson
Julie Davis
Ashlyn Dewitt
Nikki Disalvo
Ashley Dowell
Riley Fore
Richard Gasvoda
Lauren Herrli-Warner
Marta Hohman
Jenell Holstead
Jessica Kissel

Peter Kores
Karen Kroger
Vince Logan
Amanda Mackey
Danielle Montoney
Damari Montgomery
Nwamaka Onochie
Heather Reckerd
Sara-Ruth Riggs
Robbie Ritter
Arbara Rogers
Jennifer Sands

Becky Seigman
Greg Smith
Laura Smith
Chauntee Spellman
Donna Suttles
Greg Swinney
Debbie Swinney
Leslie Taylor
Terri Timbrook
Christina Wood

Groups

Salvage Yard Christian Church

CYO

Butler University

Special Thanks Due

Working with clients on our Young Boys Unit, students from IUPUI's Business-X103 Class spent time engaged in group activities.

Damar clients were treated to a Sunday movie matinee, courtesy of CYO. The turnout was great and everyone enjoyed watching *Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs* and the snacks that

were provided, too.

Butler University's Epsilon Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi provided adolescent girls on campus with a special Girls Night Out. Volunteers worked with the girls' hair, creating new hairdos. Thanks for the new "dos" ladies!



The Indianapolis office of CB Richard Ellis, Inc. hosted a movie night just for Damar's Girls Services. Clients brought blankets and pillows and stretched out on the gym floor and watched *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. Thanks for the yummy popcorn and drinks!

(cover page story) for the group from FIU, which is located in Miami, FL. Asked why the group chose to spend a week working at Damar, FIU student **Elionides Colo'n** said, "The cause brought us to Damar."

Nathalia Andrade, also from FIU, said she and her group were overwhelmed with how friendly everyone at Damar was. "The weather is warmer in Miami, but the people here at Damar are warmer in spirit, and that translates to the kids."

A spring break well spent indeed!



Eastern Michigan University students spent many hours cleaning Damar's pool.



The group from Baldwin-Wallace College had fun making decorations and sorting prom clothing.

Celebrating People in Action

**National Volunteer Week
April 18 - 24, 2010**

A very special thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers who help build better futures for the clients we serve!

Ways to give to Damar:

- Velcro
- Plastic flash lights
- Exercise balls
- Playdough
- Silly Puddy

Tee It Up!

Love to play golf? Volunteers are needed to participate in Damar's Birdies toward Better Behavior golf program. Here's an opportunity to provide a client with a positive life experience. The program is every Thursday starting at 6 p.m. and runs from late April thru July. The course is at Southern Dunes, located at 37 and Southport Road. Contact Donna Stutler at 317.856.5201 or donnas@damar.org



Remember . . .
If you haven't used Volgistics
to log your hours, please turn
them in by **April 9, 2010.**

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



Save the date!



2010

DAMAR CLASSIC

Golfing for better futures .

Tuesday, July 20, 2010 • Golf Club of Indiana

Contact Dave DeWitt at 317.856.5201 or
daved@damar.org for more information

SAVE THE DATE!

17th Annual
Wild West Fair Day
Saturday, June 19, 2010
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Activities • Food • Games

To volunteer for Wild West Fair Day, please contact Mike Kraft
at 317.856.5201 ext. 238 or miked@damar.org

The poster features a smiling woman wearing a red sleeveless shirt, a red bandana, and a straw hat. She is holding a golf club. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

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