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## IWU to Host Fifth Annual Volunteer Weekend

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April 5, 2000

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## IWU to Host Fifth Annual Volunteer Weekend

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--More than 300 Illinois Wesleyan University students and members of the IWU faculty and staff are expected to participate in the fifth annual IWU Volunteer Weekend from April 7-9. Participants will work with such organizations as Special Olympics, Bloomington-Normal Jaycees, Bloomington Police Department, Boy Scouts of America, American Red Cross and the McLean County Nursing Home.

IWU's Volunteer Weekend will begin with a kick-off luncheon featuring guest speakers and a raffle for prizes donated from various local organizations at noon on IWU's Eckley Quadrangle on Friday, April 7. Participants will receive a T-shirt courtesy of IWU President's Office.

Speakers featured during the luncheon will include: Malinda Carlson, IWU associate dean of students, Linda Waldschmidt, area director of Special Olympics, and Larry Woods, a Special Olympics participant who is a member of the Pekin Olympians.

On Saturday, April 8, the IWU Greek community will sponsor a volleyball tournament in conjunction with the Special Olympics from noon-5 p.m. Each team will include four Special Olympians as well as three representatives from an IWU sorority and an IWU fraternity. A team comprised of members of the IWU faculty and Special Olympians will also participate.

The volleyball tournament will also feature a raffle drawing for an autographed picture of model/actress Cindy Crawford and other prizes. Raffle tickets are \$1. In addition, the tournament will also include a recognition of the achievements of the Special Olympians and a live band.

All proceeds from the volleyball tournament will benefit Heartland Special Olympics.

On Sunday, April 9, approximately 50 IWU Volunteer Weekend participants will participate in Can-A-Thon 2000, a canned and dry goods drive sponsored by the Bloomington-Normal Jaycees, Bloomington Police Department, Boy Scouts of America and the Kroger Company to support local food pantries.

In addition to supporting the community through Volunteer Weekend, IWU students and faculty also participate in Make a Difference Day, an annual event co-sponsored by USA WEEKEND and the Points of Light Foundation to support volunteerism.

In 1997, IWU joined the The Illinois Campus Compact for Community Service (ICCCS), an active coalition of college and university presidents committed to making service a central element of undergraduate education. The mission of the ICCCS is to foster, promote, organize

and develop awareness of and involvement in community service--including volunteerism and service linked to the curriculum by students enrolled at institutions of higher education in the state of Illinois.

Members of the ICCCS are committed to increasing campus-wide participation in community and public service and integrating community service as a valued element of undergraduate education. The ICCCS is also committed to enhancing students' sense of responsibility, citizenship and awareness of the community while reinvigorating higher education's concern for improving the quality of life in our society.

Current members of the ICCCS include: Black Hawk College, Chicago State University, College of Lake County, DePaul University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, Loyola University, McKendree College, Millikin University, North Central College, Northwestern University, Oakton Community College, Rend Lake College, Rockford College, Southern Illinois University (Carbondale), Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville), University of Illinois at (Urbana/Champaign) and William Rainey Harper College.

For more information about IWU's Volunteer Weekend, contact Debbie Slezak, volunteer coordinator at the IWU Career Center, at (309)556-3071.

### **About Illinois Wesleyan University**

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. Construction is underway on a \$26 million library and \$6 million student center. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.

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