



Spring 4-2-2002

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Recommended Citation

Kesavan, Anita, "Illinois Wesleyan University to hold Volunteer Weekend" (2002). *News and Events*. 1175.

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April 2, 2002

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Illinois Wesleyan University to hold Volunteer Weekend

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University will hold its seventh annual Volunteer Weekend April 12-14 in support of National Volunteer Week. Organized by Erin Kay, volunteer coordinator for the IWU Career Center, the 2002 theme for the weekend is "Volunteers Complete the Circle."

The four main projects will benefit different parts of the Bloomington community as well as provide various volunteer opportunities for IWU students, faculty, and administration.

The projects will include the Bloomington Clean-up, a Kids' Carnival, Easter Seal's Annual Telethon, and the Community-wide Aviation Disaster Drill. The Volunteers participating in these activities are invited to the kick-off luncheon, which will be held on April 12, at noon on IWU's Eckley Quadrangle.

Free food, t-shirts, and raffle prizes will be available.

The first project will occur on April 6 at 10 a.m., a week before the actual start of Volunteer Weekend. Students will be participating with Uniquely Bloomington, a philanthropy organization, located at 104 W. Monroe. Students will remove paper from intersections in downtown Bloomington in an effort to clean up the community.

On Saturday, April 13, the Kids' Carnival, which is free and open to all the children in the community, will take place in the Shirk Practice Gym, 302 E. Emerson St., from 1-3 p.m. Illinois Wesleyan students and faculty will run the entire carnival, which will include games, crafts, and activities for children up to age 12. Booths such as a bean-bag toss, bubble-making, Bozo buckets, face-painting, and an obstacle course have been sponsored by different campus student living units such as Troyer, Munsell, Ferguson Halls and student organizations such as the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega.

Another project that will also occur on Saturday, April 13 is the Community-wide Aviation Disaster Drill. From 10 a.m.-2 p.m., volunteers will participate in a mock plane crash at the Bloomington airport and will act as injured victims, family members and media personnel. All the emergency services, such as the EMT, police, fire department, ambulances and Red Cross will be involved. The purpose of this project is to help prepare the emergency services in the event of an actual crisis.

On Saturday evening IWU students will help set-up and run the Easter Seal's Telethon in the Hansen Student Center. Students will act as production assistants and assist participating TV crews, as well as greet people at the door and show them where to go. Several students will also be involved with the backstage party which includes food and refreshments.

"Our goal is to have plenty of administration, student and faculty participation," said Kay. "We would like 400 volunteers helping out the different projects and utilize this weekend to do as much as we can for the Bloomington-Normal community."