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Alternative Spring Break Helps Flood Victims

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Alternative Spring Break Helps Flood Victims

March 10, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - On March 13, at 5:30 a.m. approximately 40 Illinois Wesleyan students and four faculty and staff members will embark on a weeklong volunteer trip to Atlanta, Ga., to help with disaster relief in the community. The students are part of Illinois Wesleyan University's Alternative Spring Break (ASB), an organization created through the Student Volunteer Center to give students the opportunity for a non-traditional spring break vacation.

The ASB students will be assisting in disaster relief after the flooding that took place in Atlanta this past September.

Assistant Dean of Students Kevin Clark is the director of the Student Volunteer Center. According to Clark, "Students will be rebuilding homes but also working in the local community center and helping with job placement of those who were unable to find work after the disaster. All work will be done on a day-by-day basis and we will do whatever is needed."

Junior Amber Spiewak, an anthropology major, is a member of the ASB executive board that selected this year's location. "It isn't until after the trip is over that you fully realize the impact you have made on a community in need," said Spiewak, who is preparing for her second trip. "You earn the respect of the community but you learn so much about the people as well. It is a life-changing experience and an opportunity to bond with members of the IWU community while serving others," said Spiewak.

This is the fourth year for Alternative Spring Break. Past trips have included disaster relief for victims of Hurricane Ike and Hurricane Katrina.

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