



Winter 12-19-2013

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Recommended Citation

Hill, Kim, "Streblo '15 Launches Mom's Drive to Help Women in Need" (2013). *News and Events*. 2019.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/2019>

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Streblo '15 Launches Mom's Drive to Help Women in Need

Dec. 19, 2013

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— As national and world attention the past few weeks focused on relief efforts and donations for survivors of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the tornado outbreak in the central United States, Illinois Wesleyan University student Lauren Streblo '15 created a way to make life a little easier for a group of women for whom disaster comes at the hands of a domestic partner or the inability to pay the rent on their homes.

The Mom's Drive, which Streblo created, is a result of her **internship experience at Bloomington's Crisis Nursery**, a program of Children's Home + Aid, a statewide family services agency. The Crisis Nursery offers 24/7 care to children from birth through age six whose families are in crisis. A **psychology** major, Streblo had bonded with several of the mothers using the Crisis Nursery's services and was impressed by their devotion to their children. During her internship she saw how these mothers made sure their children received diapers, formula and other necessities, but went without basic toiletries such as shampoo, body wash and paper towels for themselves. Streblo decided to help by seeking donations of items such as hand sanitizer, laundry detergent, body wash and other items from her personal network of family, friends and the Illinois Wesleyan community. In all, 2,000 items were donated to the Mom's Drive.



Lauren Streblo '15

"I'm a very outgoing person but this really forced me out of my comfort zone," says Streblo. "I was the person who had to decide everything, from how to compose emails asking for donations to deciding when the pickup times would be. I had never facilitated anything of this magnitude.

"This experience changed my perspective on the Bloomington area and on what I can do," said Streblo. "I've learned more about taking initiative and being a leader in this experience than I have in any class."

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