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Playhouse Project to Continue with Collaborative Efforts

Nov. 22, 2013

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— With the mindset of continuing their commitment to a great and worthwhile cause, Illinois Wesleyan's Habitat for Humanity and Student Education Association (SEA) are working to continue the Playhouse Project.

IWU's Habitat for Humanity began the first Playhouse Project, which was funded with grant money received by senior Nick Anderson, in the fall of 2013. The goal of the recently completed project was to create an attractive, quality playhouse that will provide successful fundraising for McLean County's Habitat for Humanity. The completed playhouse will be raffled off to the community and the funds collected will be allocated toward the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home in McLean County.

IWU's SEA decided to continue these efforts. The National Education Association (NEA), the largest professional organization in the country, awarded the Community Learning Through America's Schools (CLASS) grant to the SEA, an affiliate of the organization. The grant will fund a large majority of the project.

"The idea to apply for the CLASS grant originally came to me while I was attending an Illinois Education Association conference for student chapter leaders from colleges and universities across the state," said junior Nathan Douglas, president of the SEA.

With their CLASS grants, the NEA provides an opportunity for student-led chapters to fund their local community outreach efforts. Through this project, the SEA hopes to attract both student and local volunteers.

Joining these efforts are the local Bloomington Education Association and a team of youth recruited by Habitat for Humanity.

Douglas said the construction will take place over a series of Saturdays during the spring semester. "Habitat for Humanity has already recruited a base of local volunteers that will work alongside our organization," said Douglas. The playhouse coincides with Habitat for Humanity's mission of eliminating poverty housing by building simple, decent and affordable homes.

The project gives SEA members an opportunity to work with and inspire the young volunteers. "The project will be a valuable experience for all parties involved," said Douglas.

After the playhouse's completion, the group plans to begin its fundraising efforts to collect funding for the construction of a new Habitat for Humanity home in McLean County.

Fundraising is already underway for the playhouse completed by Habitat for Humanity. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$25 each. The drawing will be held on December 8 in Hansen Student Center (300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington). For additional information about the raffle, contact IWU's Habitat for Humanity at iwuhabitat@gmail.com.

Example of a playhouse with the same blueprint.

Photo courtesy [St. Johns Bloomington](#)

