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Illinois Wesleyan University to Hold Volunteer Weekend

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Illinois Wesleyan University will hold its ninth annual Volunteer Weekend on Friday-Sunday, April 2-4. Organized by Student Volunteer Services of the Office of Assistant Dean of Students, the 2004 theme is “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” It includes one large project that will especially benefit Bloomington community members living near IWU’s campus as well as provide a volunteer opportunity for students, faculty, and administration.

In past years the weekend has included more than one project, but this year the Office of the Assistant Dean of Students received a grant from the Illinois Campus Compact to fund the volunteer event and decided to change the format to work more closely with the Bloomington community. The volunteers will meet local citizens at a noon luncheon on April 3 on the Eckley Quadrangle. The students will then go to the homes of the community members to rake and bag leaves, wash windows, and weed gardens to prepare their homes for summer.

“This year’s theme will allow our students to reach out to community members who live close to campus, our neighbors. We hope to continue the event in the future,” said Martha Ayres, junior business major from Godfrey, Ill., and volunteer and leadership coordinator of student volunteer services.

Another part of the Volunteer Weekend is the Kids Carnival, offered for community children on April 3, from 1-3 p.m. on the Eckley Quadrangle of Illinois Wesleyan University. The rain location is the Hansen Student Center, 300 Beecher St., Bloomington. Booths will be set up with a variety of activities for children.

Many of the volunteers include Illinois Wesleyan students from organizations such as all Greek chapters on campus, the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, Circle K, and Sisters Actively Visualizing Vitality and Intellect (SAVVI). Other students who wish to help should contact the Assistant Dean of Students Office at (309) 556-3555.

Community members who would like to have their yards included in the cleaning and have not yet signed up must do so by Friday, March 12. Homes on the blocks close to the IWU campus of Phoenix, University, Graham, Fell, Evans, McLean, Beecher, Ridgewood Drive, Chestnut, Walnut, and Clinton streets may be eligible.

For more information about signing up for this service, contact Martha Ayres, at (309) 556-3749 or e-mail mayres@iwu.edu.