

3-17-1998

03/17/1998 - EIU Students Employees Community Lending Helping Hands.pdf

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1998

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/17/1998 - EIU Students Employees Community Lending Helping Hands.pdf" (1998). 1998. 432.

http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1998/432

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1998 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

98-90

March 17, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, COMMUNITY LENDING HELPING HANDS

CHARLESTON -- Teams of Eastern Illinois University students, faculty and staff, as well as Charleston area community members, are making a difference in others' lives as they participate in this year's Alternative Spring Break.

This program, sponsored locally by Newman Catholic Center's Student Volunteer Center at Eastern, allows interested persons the opportunity to spend one week -- EIU students' spring break -- living and working at volunteer sites across the country. This year, more than 130 participants -- the largest number yet in the local program's six-year history -- are spending the week (March 14-21) at 15 sites, including those that deal with the environment, homelessness, AIDS, urban and rural poor, inadequate housing, runaways and at-risk youth, and Native Americans.

"We're hoping that these experiences will be the kick-off to lifetimes of community volunteer service," said Holly Walters, volunteer coordinator for the Newman Catholic Center. "We want it to light a fire within them. And we want that fire to keep burning when they get back."

Participants often have different reasons for participating. Some take part in order to determine career plans or gain experience. Others "just have a passion for volunteering, helping others," Walters added, noting that several past Alternative Spring Break volunteers went on to long-term volunteer projects -- even to the point of leaving school for a year.

-more-

ADD 1/1/1/1

HELPING HANDS

Still others, Walters said, are “living out the Gospel. They’re living out their faith.”

This year’s sites include:

Hospitality House, Minneapolis, Minn. Volunteers play with underprivileged children, assisting with recreational programs and helping with a clean-up project.

Covenant House, New Orleans, La. Participants assist in the maintenance projects and activities at this shelter for runaway kids aged 16 to 21.

Nature Conservancy, Bristol, Fla. Students work with the Nature Conservancy to plant trees, maintain state park campgrounds and preserve coastal regions.

Our Lady of Mercy, John’s Island, S.C. Participants work with the Neighborly Assistance In Living Safely (NAILS) program which works with economically poor households by providing assistance with home repairs and improvements.

Tennessee Trails, Pikeville, Tenn. Working with the Tennessee Trails Association, volunteers here may clean leaf cover and limbs, install water bars to control erosion, build steps and paint blazes to mark trails. There are also educational opportunities dealing with the environment, history and geology of the area.

St. Vincent’s Family Center, Kansas City, Mo. Participants spend the week doing a variety of physical, clerical and educational activities including working in a day-care, after-school program, food pantry or clothing outreach, or preparing playground equipment for spring.

Church Rebuilding Project, Birmingham, Ala. Volunteers help rebuild churches destroyed by acts of hate in the South.

Catholic Charities, Minneapolis, Minn. At this site, volunteers work with children, work in a soup kitchen and help at an AIDS hospice.

Collegiate Challenge, Habitat for Humanity, Oklahoma City, Okla. Participants learn and use construction skills while working with a Habitat for Humanity affiliate and recipient family.

Narrow Ridge, Washburn, Tenn. This environmental site features outdoor work projects promoting spirituality and ecology.

Sioux YMCA, Dupree, S.D. Volunteers get a first-hand view of the lifestyle and situation

-more-

of Native Americans on their reservation.

Heifer Project International, Perryville, Ark. HPI's livestock center in Perryville is a 200-acre educational center. Activities include general ranch work, a rope challenge course and maintenance and development of international demonstration sites such as the Guatemalan Farm and the African Farm.

Nazareth Farm, Salem, W.V. Volunteers are provided a communal experience of church as a center of reflection and prayer, while working to promote justice through the empowerment of the local community and volunteers.

Glenmary Home Missioners, Lewis County, Ky. Participants get first-hand experience working with the poor of Appalachia.

Anathoth Community Farm, Luck, Wis. This farm is dedicated to the practice of non-violent intervention in sustainable agriculture and environmentalism. Participants will spend their time studying conservation practices and maintaining the farm.