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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VOLUNTEERS GO INTO THE STREETS

CHARLESTON, IL--Members of Eastern Illinois University's fraternities and sororities, represented by the Panhellenic Council and National Panhellenic Council, and Order of Omega Greek honorary are going "Into the Streets" of Charleston to address the needs of the community.

On Saturday, Nov. 9, more than 125 volunteers will visit nine local agencies in the community as part of "Into the Streets," a nationwide program to promote campus involvement with the community.

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"'Into the Streets' is a hands-on community service project intended to encourage more college students to get involved in community service and community problem-solving," said Catherine Lucas, an EIU senior family services major from Naperville and community service chair for the Panhellenic Council, the governing body for Eastern's sorority system.

Lucas said while this is the first time the Greeks have participated in the program, she is optimistic that it will eventually grow into a campus-wide program with other student organizations participating.

Among the Charleston agencies volunteers will visit are the Alpha, Omega 8 and 15, and Tull Houses, small group homes for developmentally disabled individuals.

They will also visit the Charleston office of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence; the Heritage House, a large intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled; the Charleston Manor nursing home; and Charleston Senior Center.

Volunteers plan to help paint the interior of the Charleston Senior Center and have scheduled a variety of recreational activities at the other sites. They will also do yard work for a patient of Hospice of Lincolnland.

Lucas said at the end of the day, students will meet to reflect on their experiences and will discuss making a year-long commitment to the agencies with which they worked.

"We hope that the little things we do for people in the community will make a difference," said Lucas, who encourages other agency representatives interested in participating in the program to contact her at 581-6860.