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00-237

November 8, 2000

For Immediate Release:

St. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO BENEFIT FROM EIU FUNDRAISER

CHARLESTON – Fallen leaves taking over the yard? Can't park the car till the garage gets cleaned out?

Groups of Eastern Illinois University students and staff are prepared to help Charleston and surrounding area residents get homes and yards in shape for the coming holidays. In return, they ask nothing for themselves; however, a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital would be much appreciated.

Teams will be available – on a first-come, first-served basis – from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 11 and 12, to do odd jobs in the Charleston, Mattoon and Ashmore areas. Anyone wishing to "hire" a team may do so by calling Amber at (217) 581-8196 or Megan at (217) 581-6783.

This will be the first of three major fund-raising activities scheduled to take place between now and Feb. 10. Volunteer participants, consisting of teams of up to five persons each, have committed to raising at least \$300 per team.

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The culminating event – “Up ‘til Dawn!” – will take place from 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, to 7 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 11 in EIU’s Lantz Fieldhouse. EIU volunteer participants will have pledged to stay up all night in order to show their commitment to fight childhood cancer. Games, music, dancing and refreshments will be provided to help keep participants motivated.

Proceeds from all activities taking place in the next three months will go toward St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, founded in 1962 in Memphis, Tenn., by the late Danny Thomas. The hospital has become widely recognized as the world’s premier center for research and treatment of potentially fatal childhood diseases, including cancer and certain blood, genetic and immunodeficiency disorders. The hospital’s mission is to cure children of catastrophic diseases through treatment and research.

Due to that research being done at St. Jude, the survival rate for common childhood cancers has risen from 4 percent to 80 percent. St. Jude has never turned a patient away as a result of race, creed, religion or inability to pay. No family has ever had to pay a cent to have their child treated at St. Jude.