

## Narrative Report

### Impact:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at Indiana State University was a successful event! 2014 was another record breaking year for the number of volunteer participants and we increased our outreach efforts in the community to include additional sites. This year 382 students, faculty, and community members served at 23 sites in Vigo County!

### Primary Activities:

The participants served in a variety of ways. Volunteers helped the Red Cross promote fire safety by distributing materials at apartment complexes, cleaned facilities and participated in activities with children at Ryves Hall Youth Center, sorted bulk food items for a food pantry, and worked on a rehab Habitat for Humanity house, just to name a few.

### Great Stories:

Alexander (Kofi) Barko, a graduate student, decided to participate when he read *make it a day on not a day off*. He said “I was really inspired by that quote. Since Dr. King spent his life working to improve the lives of others it is only right that we remember him in a similar way.” Barko volunteered at Ryves Hall Youth Center and said the best part about the experience was “knowing that we were investing in others. (The experience) made me consider volunteering more frequently.”

Mackenzie Carpenter, an undergraduate student and AmeriCorps member said “I had a great time volunteering at the Catholic Charities Food Bank. It was nice to volunteer outside of my site and work with other students to assist the food bank.”

Beth Sablehaus, an ISU alumnae and community member of Terre Haute, was impressed by the number of students participating in the event. “It was exciting to see a huge gathering of

college students from my alma mater ready to serve in my community” Sablehaus said. She spent the afternoon volunteering at Ryves Hall Youth Center. As a former employee of Ryves, Sablehaus had the chance to share the vital role Ryves plays in the lives of many underprivileged children and families with student volunteers. Sablehaus said “This day of service was a great match of meeting the needs of organizations in our community while providing students with a way to get to know their community outside of campus.”

#### Lessons Learned:

We followed recommendations from last year’s program to improve the process for students to sign up for specific sites on the day of the event. Upon entering the meeting room, there were three stations for students to form lines for site sign ups. The stations did not interfere with the main entrance or the line for lunch.

Unfortunately, some of our students had to wait at their sites for community members to meet them. We had previously confirmed the meeting locations with each community partner but one site had a staff member dealing with a family emergency and there was some misunderstanding about the location for the replacement person to meet the students. Once we knew students were waiting we worked with the contact to make sure the staff member met the students and directed them in the service work. While we did our best to plan and prepare by contacting sites in advance and providing students with directions and maps we were not able to avoid this misunderstanding. In the future we will continue to contact sites in advance, provide the meeting location to students, and make sure the staff member is present to meet students. We strive to ensure the students have a good experience in the community so they will continue to volunteer in the future!