



News Release

Missouri Western State College • 4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507 • 816-271-5649

Contact: Kristy Hill

Phone: (816)-271-5649

Title: Public Relations/Marketing Director

Email: hillk@mwsc.edu

WESTERN STUDENTS GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY AT BIG EVENT

St. Joseph, Mo. —April 26, 2005—“I’ve been looking at these clothes mound up, thinking, ‘how are we going to get this done?’ This has been so much help.” Those were the words of Gayle Wise, service coordinator at the Northwood apartment complex, when several students from Missouri Western State College showed up on April 23 to help Wise and Diana Crofutt get ready for a 4-H garage sale.

The students, Rob Martin of Gower, Mo.; Nick Thyfault of Chicago, Rich Crowe of Chillicothe, Mo.; Thomas Hanrahan of Liberty, Mo. and Lacey Merrell of Lewistown, Mo.; were part of the Big Event, a semi-annual day of service sponsored by the Center for Multicultural Education. Over 130 volunteered at 15 not-for-profit organizations throughout the community.

“I am very grateful,” said Wise. “I thank the college for doing this.” She said Western has provided volunteers at several Big Events since they began the volunteer day in 2001. In the past at Northwood, Western students and staff have planted a garden, cleaned an apartment and aided an elderly handicapped woman. One time, rain cancelled an outdoor service project, and students spent the day writing, making props and performing a play for the young apartment residents.

“It’s a good chance for the college to come out and make a difference in the community,” said Martin.

Crowe agreed. “It’s a good opportunity for Western students to be seen making a difference in the community. I’m having a good time working with these guys.”

-more-

Page 2 of 2 – Big Event

Along with helping at Northwood, Western students and staff throughout the community helped clean a warehouse and work on a house for Habitat for Humanity, performed yard work for several families, helped with the March of Dimes walk and a Special Olympics event, worked at a garage sale for Mid-City Excellence and worked outdoors at Camp Geiger Boy Scout Camp.

Students all stated the same reasons for their participation: “It’s fun and I enjoy it. I wanted to give back to the community and help out. I wanted to make a difference.” And for many students, Saturday’s event was not their first stint at volunteering. Many had participated in the Big Events several times, and several noted that they also volunteer with their campus organizations.

Students Natalie Bailey of Sedalia, Mo.; Alicia Falter of Westphalia, Mo. and Kari Snyder of Hamilton, Mo. were working together on the foundation of a Habitat for Humanity house. “It’s a good way to meet people from Missouri Western and in the community,” Falter said.

Bailey said she was having a good time. “It feels good to give back to the community. I like to make a connection between St. Joseph and Missouri Western. We’re doing a good thing today.”

-end-

Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.