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The University of Dayton

News Release

UD STARTS SEARCH FOR PAST "CHRISTMAS ON CAMPUS" PARTICIPANTS

DAYTON, Ohio, Sept. 15, 1988--"O come all ye faithful!"

The University of Dayton is issuing a plea to area alumni who have served as past chairpersons of its annual Christmas on Campus celebration or participated in the Nativity re-enactment as Mary, Joseph or the Christ Child.

"UD is planning its biggest Christmas on Campus ever in celebration of our 25th year," said Eleanor Kurtz, director of the Kennedy Union who has been involved in the planning of the community event every year. "We want to hold a special reunion or reception for past organizers and participants."

Anyone who participated in the Nativity scene or chaired the event is asked to contact: Ellie Kurtz, Kennedy Union, University of Dayton, 300 College Park, Dayton, Ohio 45469-0001, (513) 229-3333.

Each year on Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, UD students "adopt" hundreds of inner-city underprivileged children and senior citizens as guests for festivities that include a tree-lighting ceremony, games, songs, an appearance by Santa Claus and entertainment by mimes, clowns and puppets. The event, which annually draws a crowd of about 3,000, closes with a special Mass in the UD Fieldhouse. The hundreds of poinsettias donated by students and the community at the church service are then distributed by students to area nursing homes and hospitals.

"Christmas on Campus is UD's gift to the community," Kurtz said. "The event is open to anyone in the community who wants to attend. The celebration gets bigger and bigger each Christmas."