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UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON STUDENTS HELP SOUTH BRONX NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP RENOVATE A HOME FOR AIDS PATIENTS

Upon finishing final exams, a group of University of Dayton students will be spending April 30-May 6 in New York's South Bronx where they will be helping a neighborhood group turn a vacant turn-of-the-century orphanage into a health care facility for women and children AIDS patients. Their volunteer effort marks the beginning of a multi-million-dollar grassroots renovation effort.

John George, a sophomore mathematics major from Detroit, has enlisted eight UD students and his brother, Brian, to help the Christian Brothers, a Catholic religious order, fix up the inner-city 80-room mansion. "These are people interested in doing what they can as students," said George, who learned about the project from Brother Ed Phelan, F.S.C. George attended Detroit's De La Salle High School, which is operated by the Christian Brothers, and is considering joining the religious order.

The brothers' neighborhood-help agency, the Highbridge Community Life Center, received a $1.5 million loan from the city of New York to purchase the property and another $10 million-plus from the state of New York for the renovation, according to Phelan. Formerly the Woodycrest School for Children, the property sits "on the high ground overlooking Yankee Stadium," Phelan said.

"I'm trying to build a network of people who can work together to help this project along," he said. "The University of Dayton students will be cleaning the grounds, clearing out the trash, raking out the grass and throwing around fertilizer. The hedges, now 12 or 13 feet high, need to be trimmed. Maybe they'll even paint the big, black wrought-iron fence, which I see as sort of the symbol of it (the house) coming back (to life)."

For more information, contact John George at (513) 229-1395 or Brother Ed Phelan at (212) 665-1133 or (212) 681-2222.

STUDENTS SPEND SUMMER IN HOLLONS OF KENTUCKY'S APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS TO OFFER HELPING HAND AS PART OF 20-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

The white frame house sits a quarter-mile off the dirt road, nearly hidden in a stand of trees. It's an uphill climb on an overgrown path to haul jugs of water filled from the well or from spigots at the grocery store or gas station in town. There's no heat, no running water, no indoor plumbing. Showers are available if you stand outside and catch the run-off from the roof during a rainstorm.

For members of the University of Dayton Community Action Group (UDCAG), it's the perfect place to spend a summer vacation. Since 1969, UD students have spent summers living and working among the people of Salyersville in Kentucky's Magoffin County. Through UDCAG's Appalachia Club, the students sponsor tutoring sessions for children, run an evening recreation program for teens and visit area nursing home residents.

This summer, a dozen students will be living in Salyersville from June 4-August 4.

For more information, contact Sister Nancy Bramlage, S.C., at (513) 229-2576.