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Alumni Serve Their Communities by Continuing A Campus Holiday Tradition

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(NOTE TO EDITORS: About 25 University of Dayton graduates living in the Atlanta area will be hosting a Christmas party at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, for about 20 children from the Moreland Avenue Women’s and Children’s shelter. The party will be held at the Epworth United Methodist Church, located at 1561 McClendon Ave. For more information, call Betsy Herdon at 770-818-0657.)

ALUMNI SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES
BY CONTINUING A CAMPUS HOLIDAY TRADITION

DAYTON, Ohio — Students at the University of Dayton have celebrated Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, for more than three decades with a Christmas party for thousands of children.

About 85 percent of UD alumni participated in Christmas on Campus while they were students — an event that includes a Mass, tree-lighting ceremony, music concerts and games for as many as 4,000 people.

Once they graduate, many alumni keep the tradition alive with their families and college friends in Christmas off Campus, an offshoot of the annual Dec. 8 celebration.

Alumni at 17 chapters across the country will try to make the holidays a little brighter for others in their communities through a variety of volunteer projects.

For example, alumni in the Washington D.C., area will have a party for the mothers and children staying at St. Martin’s House, a transitional home for the homeless. In Akron, Ohio, alumni will go caroling at St. Edward’s Nursing Home, and the San Francisco chapter will prepare sack lunches for the homeless.

“It’s a great way for us to get together. We’ve been going to the same place each year and it’s a good feeling to know the kids appreciate us,” said Betsy Herndon, who’s coordinating the Atlanta chapter’s Christmas off Campus party at the Moreland Avenue Women’s and Children’s shelter.

Kathy Harmon, assistant director of alumni relations, said that about 500 people got involved with Christmas off Campus last year. “Christmas off Campus provides our alumni with a special connection to the University because so many of our alumni participated in

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Christmas on Campus as students,” she said. “The events offer UD alums the chance to provide service to their communities in the name of the University.”

UD is a private, co-educational institution, founded by the Society of Mary, a Roman Catholic order that emphasizes community service. Approximately 11,000 graduate and undergraduate students currently attend UD.

UD alumni chapters taking part in Christmas off Campus include: Akron/Canton, Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, Indianapolis, Louisville, New York Metro, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rochester, San Francisco, Tampa Bay, Toledo and Washington D.C./Baltimore.

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For media interviews, call Kathy Harmon at (937) 229-3299. For more information, call Erika Mattingly at (937) 229-3212.