

The Giving Camp Gives Back

BY JENNY SILVER

Reverend David O'Leary, university chaplain and lecturer in the Department of Comparative Religion, succeeded Paul Stanton this year as the new chair of the 2002 Tufts Community Appeal. No stranger to Tufts, O'Leary served as Catholic chaplain for four years before assuming his new role as university chaplain in July. He is chair of the Institutional Review Board for the Tufts Medford campus and a member of the Institutional Review Board at the Tufts New England Medical Center—both boards review research proposals involving human subjects. His work at Tufts also includes a full range of pastoral counseling responsibilities.

For the past two years, O'Leary has worked to make **The Giving Camp**—a free one-week camp for Somerville and Medford residents with physical and mental disabilities—a reality at Tufts. O'Leary and Diane Ricciardelli, executive director of The Giving Camp, a Tufts alum who was formerly an employee at the university for 16 years, recognized the enormous volunteer potential at Tufts as well as the university's commitment to community activism. With seed money from the University College of Citizenship and Public Service (UCCPS)—a program that promotes active citizenship and



Leslie Wang from the student leadership team for The Giving Camp and Peggy Kazazian, a Somerville resident

strong community/college connections—the idea for The Giving Camp began taking shape.

"People with mental and physical challenges are part of the community, but we don't often see them in a campus setting," said O'Leary. "The Giving Camp is a great way to integrate them so that it's a learning and sharing opportunity for everyone. Our plan is to have this become a nationwide program."

In its inaugural year, four students from UCCPS have been selected as The Giving Camp's leadership team to recruit, fundraise, plan activities for the week, and coordinate training for student volunteers. A steer-

ing committee (see sidebar) comprising Tufts faculty, staff, and members of the community has provided guidance and professional expertise to the students.

Many departments have played an active advisory role to the camp, including Health Services, the Athletics Department, the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development, and the Tufts Educational Day Care Center. A team of three senior-level Tufts administrators has conferred on logistics. And professional staff from the Walnut Street Center in Somerville—where many of the guests will be recruited—

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THE GIVING CAMP STEERING COMMITTEE

Michelle D. Bowdler, *Director of Tufts Health Services*

Ed Dente, TUA, *Assistant Director of Media Services*

William Gehling, *Athletics Director*

Steven W. Hirsch, *Associate Professor, Classics*

Siobhan Houton, *Public Relations*

Reverend David O'Leary, *University Chaplain*

Karen Procacini, *Residential Director, Walnut Street Center, Inc., Somerville*

Diane Ricciardelli, *Executive Director, The Giving Camp*

Barbara Rubel, *Director of Community Relations*

George Scarlett, *Asst. Professor and Deputy Chair, Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development*

Pina Masciarelli-Patel, *Boston School of Occupational Therapy*

Janet Zeller, *Lecturer, Director, Tufts Educational Day Care Center*

THE GIVING CAMP ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Wayne Bouchard, *Executive Administrative Dean*

Paul Stanton, *Director of Administration, IT, and Libraries*

Paul Tringale, *Director of Conference Bureau*

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Rev. David O'Leary and David Melvin enjoy a performance by the Beelzebubs, a Tufts student men's a capella group.

have conducted training sessions with students.

On Columbus Day this year, The Giving Camp had a successful trial run with eight guests

from the Walnut Street Center. During Spring Break week, the camp will officially open its doors to 40 children and adult guests with disabilities from

Somerville and Medford who will participate in separate morning and afternoon sessions. In addition to a full range of athletic, art, and musical activities, life skills and nutrition workshops are being developed for the guests. Eighty volunteers are being recruited to provide a 1:1, staff-to-guest ratio. College students from the Cambridge area will also be invited to participate so that they'll understand how to launch a program at their own schools next year.

"The camp is sustainable and repeatable. Students learn to operate a camp for people in the community, and then return year after year to train new volunteers and to remain connected to Tufts as alumni," says Ricciardelli. "Their commitment to commu-

nity has tremendous intrinsic value, and provides a unique opportunity for residents who might not otherwise have the chance to spend a week on a college campus with students—and it's a lot of fun!"

Summing up, O'Leary says, "The response in the Tufts community has been very exciting." ●

Donations to The Giving Camp can be made through the Tufts Community Appeal. Staff and faculty wishing to volunteer at The Giving Camp should contact:

info@thegivingcamp.org
or call **866-825-GIVE**.

Additional information can be found at
www.thegivingcamp.org

Monday

December 9, 2002
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sackler Building, Eighth Floor
Boston Campus

Wednesday

December 11, 2002
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Gifford House
The President's Residence
Medford/Somerville Campus

Tuesday

December 17, 2002
12:00 to 2:00 p.m., luncheon
Kohnstamm Conference Room
Grafton Campus

Please bring one canned food item to be donated to the local food bank. Foods high in protein (such as tuna fish, peanut butter, and beans) are especially needed. Donations will be made to the Greater Boston Food Bank, the Grafton Food Bank, and food pantries in Medford and Somerville.

Please join us for a

Holiday Celebration

Larry & Adele Bacow