

# IIT's Big Event to pair students with service opportunities

Kori Bowns  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Big Event at IIT is an annual tradition where students of all backgrounds gather to donate their time through community service to local venues in the city of Chicago. The Big Event is the single largest service event offered to students at the university.

This year will be the seventh year that IIT will be participating in the Big Event, but it is an event that has been held at other universities for over 30 years. This year, IIT's Big Event will take place on Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Students will be able to sign up to be paired up with a community venue in neighborhoods around IIT and across Chicago.

Many of the volunteer opportunities offered for the Big Event allow students to do some manual work cleaning up or improv-

ing a variety of locations. Some of the venues and activities planned for this year's Big Event include: cleaning up Palmisano Park at 2700 South Halsted Street, painting and cleaning Olivet Baptist Church on King Drive, facilitating Earth Day activities for Girl Scouts, and cleaning up IIT's very own UFarm.

Lynne Meyer, IIT's Director of Spiritual Life, Diversity, and Service, has been organizing the event for five years and says it's her favorite service event of the year. "It brings people of all backgrounds, non-religious and religious alike, together around the powerful idea that we can help to make the world a better place. It's a time when we demonstrate, as a community, that we care about our neighborhood, our city, and our planet," she said. Meyer also says the event improves her outlook on the world, "At the end of the day, after seeing hundreds of my students devote their time and energy to helping others, I am utterly in love

with life. I am renewed and uplifted. Especially on days like The Big Event, the wonderfully diverse and caring community here at IIT gives me hope for the future of this world."

Meyer says that students choose to donate their time through the Big Event for a variety of reasons, but believes that IIT students have a core love of service.

IIT's Relay for Life is also partnered with the Big Event. Relay will take place on Saturday evening and gives students another unique option to give back. In regard to this partnership, Meyer said, "By bringing Relay into the Big Event, we were able to give students another choice for volunteering that was completely unlike the other service options traditionally part of Big Event. It's on-campus, and on Saturday night instead of Saturday morning, which means that people who are unable to serve at the morning events still have a way to give back and be part of Big Event.

And that gets to the heart of something else that I've tried to do over the years, which is make the Big Event more inclusive. As much as possible, I try to find sites that represent different types of service, so that anyone, regardless of area of interest or physical needs, has at least one option that works for them." Students interested in joining IIT's Relay for Life event can sign up online at [relayforlife.org/iitil](http://relayforlife.org/iitil).

Following the conclusion of the service work slated for Saturday morning, the Office of Campus Life is sponsoring a picnic for all of the participants when they return to campus. The first 150 students to register for the Big Event will also receive a free t-shirt. Students interested in signing up to volunteer for the Big Event can visit [tinyurl.com/BigEventSignUp15](http://tinyurl.com/BigEventSignUp15) by April 17 and send any questions to Meyer at [service@iit.edu](mailto:service@iit.edu).



Photo courtesy of Lynne Meyer

2015 GREEK WEEK

<div>SUNDAY APRIL 12</div> <div>SKIT, BANNER, T-SHIRT</div> <div>HERMANN HALL AUDITORIUM 7 P.M.</div>	<div>MONDAY APRIL 13</div> <div>8-MAN 1 P.M. THE QUAD</div> <div>QUIZ BOWL 9:30 P.M. WISNICK AUDITORIUM</div>	<div>TUESDAY APRIL 14</div> <div>PARTY GAMES 1 P.M. THE QUAD</div> <div>TUG 9:30 P.M. THE QUAD</div>	<div>WEDNESDAY APRIL 15</div> <div>EGG TOSS 1 P.M. THE QUAD</div> <div>GUEST SPEAKER 9:30 P.M. HERMANN HALL AUDITORIUM</div>
<div>THURSDAY APRIL 16</div> <div>LEG TUNNEL 1 P.M. THE QUAD</div> <div>TOUR DE QUAD 9:30 P.M. THE QUAD</div>	<div>FRIDAY APRIL 17</div> <div>BAT SPIN 1 P.M. THE QUAD</div> <div>POOL RELAY 7 P.M. KEATING</div>	<div>SATURDAY APRIL 18</div> <div>CART RACE 1 P.M. MAN ON A BENCH PARK</div> <div>RELAY FOR LIFE 6 P.M. KEATING</div>	<div>SUNDAY APRIL 19</div> <div>CUPCAKE WARS 1 P.M. THE QUAD</div> <div>DANCE-OFF 7 P.M. HERMANN HALL AUDITORIUM</div>