

{Alumni Association News}

JMU's Big Event is even bigger deal in 2012

Alumni take Be the Change spirit across nation BY JAMES IRWIN ('06)

For a second year, hundreds of JMU students participated in The Big Event — a Madison day of community service and Be the Change. Like the inaugural event in 2011, students volunteered in local Harrisonburg nonprofits, organizations and civic clubs, and their collective efforts totaled more than 2,000 hours of community service.

This year, JMU alumni rolled up their Be the Change sleeves and participated in Big Event satellite service



JMU alumni took JMU's Big Event community service day across the nation this year and volunteered for nonprofits and other civic organizations in Atlanta, Boulder, Charlotte, Charlottesville, Chicago, Harrisonburg, Jacksonville, Long Island, Los Angeles, New York City, Raleigh, Tampa and Washington, D.C.

opportunities in 13 cities across the nation. Alumni Big Event projects included cleanup assistance in conservation areas and state parks, partnerships with the Make a Wish Foundation, volunteer projects with the SPCA and Habitat for Humanity, an MS Walk, cleaning out a shelter for veterans and organizing inventory at a church thrift store. Alumni also provided assistance to an area food bank. **M**

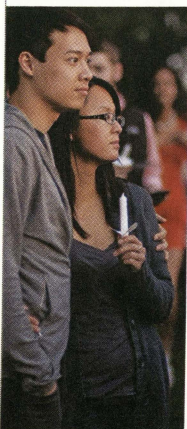
* View the photo album of 2012 alumni Big Event projects at www.facebook.com/JMUAlumni/photos.

AlumniNews

BRIGHTENING THE LIGHTS OF MADISON

2012 Senior Candle Lighting welcomes newest alumni

Nearly 300 graduating seniors gathered in Alumni Association Centennial Park the Friday before final exams in May to participate in one of the university's oldest traditions — the Alumni Candle Lighting Ceremony. JMU Alumni Association Past-President AJ Fischer ('92) inducted members of the JMU Class of 2012 into the alumni association during the ceremony. The Alumni Candle Lighting Ceremony has roots back to 1912, when the first reunion of graduates was held at the Normal School.



JMU license plates support legacy scholarships

Put your Purple Pride to work for students BY JAMES IRWIN ('06)

Reenergizing your Madison Experience and jump-starting the Madison Experience for someone else is just a few clicks away thanks to the JMU Alumni Association's legacy scholarship program.

You know you bleed purple. So bring JMU along for the ride and show off your Madison Spirit wherever you go. Purchase a Virginia JMU license plate and \$15 of the \$25 annual DMV fee is transferred to JMU for legacy scholarships. These funds support future JMU students!

The JMU Alumni Association generates nearly \$50,000 annually from its license plate programs, which are divvied up for incoming freshmen legacy students — whose parent, grandparent or older sibling graduated from JMU. These scholarship recipients — and all other legacy freshmen — are invited to a legacy picnic lunch during Orientation Week to celebrate their special connections between JMU alumni and current students. **M**

* Visit www.jmu.edu/alumni/plates/index.shtml to purchase a JMU plate.

