

**Ben Nyhoff**  
**Kellogg Community College**



**Bruins Give Back Monthly Service Projects**

Ben Nyhoff is originally from Zeeland, Michigan, and is a graduate of Grand Valley State University where he studied Public and Non-Profit Administration. Ben believes that volunteerism and civic engagement are the first steps toward responding to community needs, and is excited to be a part of both movements as an AmeriCorps\* VISTA at Kellogg Community College (KCC).

Together with his work on academic service learning at KCC, Ben spent a good portion of the fall encouraging co-curricular service and civic engagement across the campus. Ben coordinated monthly service projects on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup>, and December 4<sup>th</sup>, called *Bruins Give Back*. The foremost partners for *Bruins Give Back* were Habitat for Humanity and YouthBuild Battle Creek, who helped KCC participants respond to local needs for decent affordable housing and youth programs. More than 100 KCC students, faculty, and staff volunteered on the three different dates to renovate homes by painting, constructing, installing installation, dry walling, plumbing and more. Ben also worked with KCC's athletic director to get athletic teams involved in the projects, resulting in participants from the softball, baseball, basketball and volleyball teams. There has been much positive feedback about *Bruins Give Back* this fall, and many volunteers have committed to serving again in the future.

**A Note from his supervisor, Glenda Morling:** "People don't realize all the planning and hard work that is needed to make a monthly volunteer event successful at the College. We have been running Bruins Give Back since 2008, but Ben has taken the program to a new level this semester, with a much greater visibility and participation. Through his diligence, dedication, and determination, Bruins Give Back is becoming part of our institution, and local organizations look forward to our regular involvement in the community. Ben is well organized and personable, and makes volunteers feel important and valued, enjoy their experience, and want to come back again next month!"