Nearly Naked Mile benefits local outreach mission

campus-news

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KOKOMO, Ind. – Students at Indiana University Kokomo will shed a few layers of clothing and collect winter items for the needy during the Nearly Naked Mile event on Wednesday, November 2. The one-mile course will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the basketball courts and end at Alumni Hall, where hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Student Body Vice President Jordan Ousley, who was instrumental in organizing the event, said many of the needy in the area are forced to make a choice between food and clothes during the winter months.

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Nearly Naked Mile

“If you only have enough money to pay for one thing, you have to choose which is more important – food to eat or clothes to keep you warm. We want to make sure people don’t have to make that choice,” Ousley said.

Runners and walkers can pre-register outside the bookstore in the Kelley Student Center. Registration the day of the event will take place from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the basketball courts.

There is no registration fee, but all participants must donate at least two items of winter clothing, to be given to the Kokomo Urban Outreach. The local mission provides food, clothing, and other necessities to those less fortunate in the Kokomo area.

Prizes will be awarded to the best costumes. Each participant can purchase an IU Kokomo hoodie for $10, and the cost for non-participants is $20.

Ousley and Student Alumni Association President Justin Enyart ensured hesitant participants that, although the minimum clothing requirement is swimwear, “nearly naked” does not need to be taken literally.

“You don’t need to be nearly naked to participate,” Enyart said. “You can wear whatever you want. We don’t care what you run in – we just want your clothes!”

The event is co-sponsored by the Student Alumni Association, the Student Athletic and Wellness Board, and the Student Nurse Association.

Indiana University Kokomo serves north central Indiana.

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