

If you think Disneyland is the happiest place on earth, you haven't been at the University of Dayton in December.

Christmas on Campus, believed to be the nation's largest single-day, on-campus community service event, celebrated 50 years in 2013 with lots of smiles — and even more snowflakes. A record-setting winter storm couldn't stop the UD community from embracing the season's spirit and celebrating with local children and their families.

"It means everything to us that for one night we can make a difference in someone's life," says Deanna Tomaselli '15, the event's public relations chair. "This event is sometimes the only Christmas people have, so we take great pride in it."

The 28 Christmas on Campus student committee members put in more than 500 hours to plan the special milestone celebration, adding another subcommittee to focus solely on anniversary festivities and the traditional candlelit Mass.

Says co-coordinator Jessica Nelsen '14, "It is a celebration of what UD is all about."