

Stephanie Behnke- AmeriCorps Fall 2002

Marshall & Audubon Playground

I spent my school year at Marshall Elementary School. I spent the majority of my time in a 4th grade class. I assisted with prime time reading, math, language arts, and after school tutoring. I was also able to assist in the art room. In the art room I was able to work with children of every grade and vast ability levels.



This is the 4th grade class I spent the majority of my time at Marshall with.



At Audubon playground during the summer I was involved in working with 20-40 kids every night. The children at Audubon made my summer memorable and gave me a slightly different outlook on life. The children taught me that no matter their circumstances, kids just want to be kids and play. For three hours, five days a week, the children had an outlet for their energy.



One of the things I really enjoyed this summer was going on weekly trips to the library.



Before becoming an AmeriCorps member, I never took the time to consider what volunteering meant to me. I had engaged myself in volunteering my time throughout my junior high and high school years, but I never stepped back and gave what I was doing a definition. In the past, when I volunteered I was simply giving my time. My heart was in it when I volunteered, but I didn't reflect upon the impact I could have.

Throughout the school year and this summer I have dedicated my time to giving to others and in return I received more than I could ever give. I have given my time because I considered what I was doing good. Helping children struggle through flash cards and then watching them pass the timed test, is very rewarding. Playing with 20 to 40 kids every night and building trusting relationships is something I consider good. Completely giving yourself and your time is gaining life long knowledge while discovering who you are in this world.