

## Chrissie Pluemer - AmeriCorps 2002

### Summer Placement at Community Y Cool School

I was unsure of what to think after finishing my school year placement. I knew that my placement at the Y Cool School would be a fun time, but could it amount to what I had at my previous site? I have always worked with much older children and I would be working with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. There were times when I thought I was being more of a discipliner than anything else. Sometimes I felt so overwhelmed I thought I would not be able to handle it. Even though times were much tougher than I anticipated, I had the strength to finish what I started.

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."  
—Sir Winston Churchill*



Kids working on their birdhouses. I taught a birdhouse kit one week.

With all the variety of interaction I had with my students, I never realized what being there everyday meant to them. This feeling came when I showed up for my last day. I had finished my hours and was going to have surgery the next day and when I came into the room, all the girls rushed toward me. When the boys came along, they came with open arms, wanting hugs and wanted to make sure I sat by them at lunch. Then at snack time, the students told me they had a surprise for me, I really felt the bond between us. They made me good luck and we will miss you cards.

Through this whole journey from beginning to end, I realize so much about myself and I allowed so many great children to enter into my life. I will always have a special place for them, because they helped me change how I feel about myself, and I have seen them grow along with me. If I were asked again to do this, I would definitely do it.



My favorite field trip was the Alpine slides at Chestnut.



Car Wash day at the Y.