

Katie Koenigsfeld- AmeriCorps Summer 2002

Fulton Playground

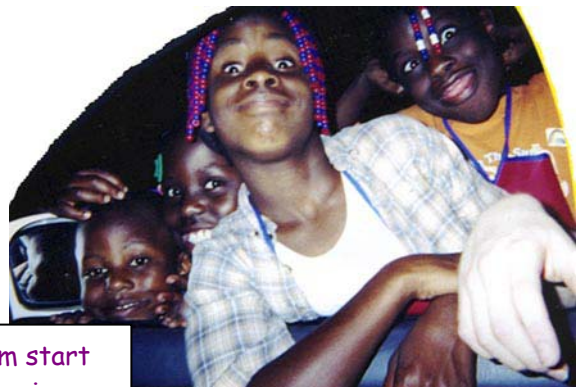
As my term volunteering for AmeriCorps has come to an end, I look back and see all the opportunities that I was presented with during this year and I have to smile. I admit that there were times when I wanted to give up, but those times were overshadowed by many great experiences. I always thought that I was helping and giving others and now I realize how much I was given in return, whether it was a hug or a smile or even a simple advancement in a child's reading. I have seen many different situations this year in which I have had to sit back and take into consideration the differences in children's home lives. Which I believe is one of the hardest tasks that I have had to accomplish. It seems so unfair that one child has everything provided for all of their needs and some children get the bare minimum, if that. I feel that through the AmeriCorps summer programs we have given these children the opportunity to experience many new and exciting adventures in a positive environment. They have learned to make the best out of situations that may not be so ideal, such as Fulton playground with all of the construction. The kids always showed up without fail to the playground, always asking what new project we had for them or if we could play with them. It was such a great experience to see how these children would interact with the AmeriCorps. I can say that AmeriCorps was a great experience that I will never forget and I hope that in volunteering my time I have touched a child's life in some small way.



Each week, a different curriculum kit was placed at Fulton. The kit that was favored by all the children at Fulton was making birdhouses. Each child was able to put the house together, then paint them!



On Wednesday nights, we took field trips around Dubuque. Here one of the Fulton kids, stops hiking on the trails at Swiss Valley to get his picture taken.



The kids were there from start to finish almost every evening. It was hard to leave at night.