

## Sara Boland- AmeriCorps Summer 2002 Rotator Position

When I first started this job, I knew that it would be good experience for me. I am an elementary education major. Being able to work with all different ages of children has really opened up my eyes. By being a rotator, I was able to do different jobs all summer. I did summer school at Eisenhower, where I got to work with first-grade autistic children. This really taught me how to be patient with children who need more one-on-one attention. It also taught me how special each child really is.

I was also involved with a summer school program at Lincoln. This program was a “jump start” program for children going into kindergarten who were already showing signs that they were a little behind. I was able to see the children make dramatic improvements and they felt ready for kindergarten. As a rotator, I was able to help at UD for kids. I remember going to this program when I was in elementary school, so it was neat for me to go back and be a helper and see things from the outside.

Perhaps one of my most challenging placements this summer was working at Comiskey. When I first started there, I was very easily frustrated by the children and their lack of following directions. I went home many nights feeling like I was a mean person. As time went on, I could see that I was such an important person to the children, and that I was one of the only role models that they had.

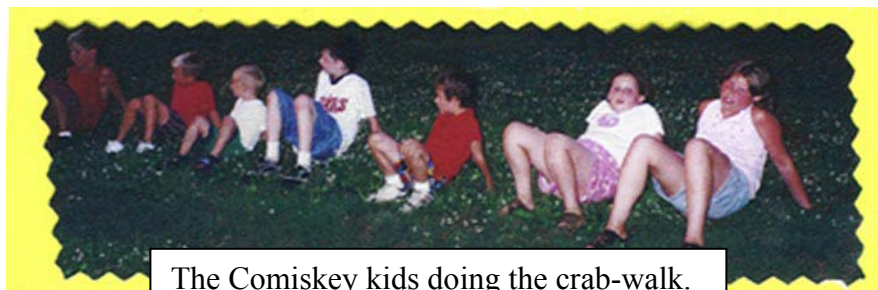


The Comiskey kids are eating chips and salsa as part of our Mexican Fiesta week.

Myself and other Members at UD for Kids.



I feel so blessed to have been able to work with all the children, and I really feel that they will always have a place in my heart. The bonds that I have made with all the kids will never be forgotten, because as I was teaching them all summer, they were also teaching me.



The Comiskey kids doing the crab-walk.