

## Sarah Paisley- AmeriCorps Summer 2002

### Comiskey Playground

Primarily I thought my job this summer was going to be a playground director. I was going to tell the kids what to do for the day, and they did it. The kits provided for us would be easy to use. We would just take a little time out of each day to learn something new. After spending my first week at Comiskey I soon realized that I was wrong, and learning something new wasn't in any of their plans.

I would have to say that the best part of my summer was in knowing that I had an impact on these kids. Everyday there were kids waiting when I got there at 1:00 and 6:00, and they wouldn't go home until the last minute at the end of the night. I found that the hardest part of my summer was keeping control and still letting the kids have fun. I tried to keep in mind all of the time that this is their summer vacation and I wanted them to keep coming back. On the other hand, they have to be able to follow directions, and play fairly with the other kids. Keeping a balance was always a challenge. Meeting these kids and hearing about their family lives was an eye-opener for me. I found that all of them had something in their family that made growing up a little bit tougher.



During our fiesta we made our own ice-cream and root beer. Here the kids are getting their ingredients for the ice-cream.

This summer I learned that it is possible to be in charge and be a friend at the same time. The first week at the park we were choosing teams for a game and I over heard one child say to another, "pick the big girl, she's good." When I look back on this now I realize that I was a kid again, being picked for a team just like everyone else. I am glad that is how they thought of me, as someone they could have fun with.



Of all the hot days in the summer, the water carnival was on the coldest.

I would like to thank the kids at Comiskey Park for opening my eyes and helping me to realize how much fun it is to be a kid again.