

Shana Kegley- AmeriCorps Summer 2002

Marshall School and Dubuque Community Y Preschool

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." I believe it is with this wisdom and foresight that the AmeriCorps volunteers are presented. There is an abundance of compassion and affinity to aid the part, in order to make the whole. That is what AmeriCorps is all about; helping where we can at the grassroots level, in order to improve our nation.

In my day-to-day activities at my Marshall I was a tutor for grades K-3. I had never previously worked with children, and wondered what the experience would yield. After my first day, it was clear I was attracted to the many attributes the position offered. I had never witnessed so many smiling faces waiting for my recognition and praise. Each child would hold me in the highest esteem and expect from me understanding and guidance. In other words, they would expect me to be the teacher. That word has many exemplary connotations. Throughout the term of my assignment, I learned what it truly was, to be a teacher.



I was able to work with many groups of children at Marshall. Some groups were so social and fun that it was often difficult at times to keep their minds on their tasks.

During the summer I was given the opportunity to work at the Dubuque Community Y with the Preschool Department. This was an experience all its own! The Big Car Wash was an event to raise money for the children's field trips. They had a great time. One trip to Storybook Hill brought smiles to the kid's faces. After seeing the kids have so much fun on the train ride, the teachers decided to join in the fun. I think the children were quite amazed to see their silly teachers squishing themselves into the train, all in the name of fun.



The kids riding in the train at Storybook Hill. They loved to look at the animals and play on the equipment out there.

The car wash gave the preschoolers the opportunity to help do some grown-up stuff.

