

## Tracy Link- AmeriCorps Summer 2002 St. Mark Community Center

It is hard to sum up my second term as an AmeriCorps member experience this summer. I have to say this summer was so rewarding emotionally. I gained insights, strategies, challenges, and much more from my work at St. Mark Community Center.

During the summer I was involved in many programs, they consisted of a seven-week summer school fun type of program, drama camp, the Catfish Festival Arts Projects, and the Apples program. The summer school program was a seven-week program exploring different topics each week. The topics ranged from dinosaurs to nutrition. The program was designed to give children the chance to interact with other children their age, keep their reading and writing skills sharpened over the summer months, and have a chance to learn new things.

The first session of summer fun consisted of a week full of Dinosaur activities. We read about dinosaurs, created fossils, wrote about their extinction, and much more. The children also had a chance to become paleontologists and dig up dinosaur fossils. Their next step was to put together the dinosaur bones to create a dinosaur. The children were also placed into stations where they worked on dinosaur math activities and compared their walking stride to a dinosaur's single step. The kids really seemed to enjoy learning about dinosaurs.



Here we enjoy nutritious popsicles.

During week 3, we focused on nutrition. The students learned about the food pyramid and many other activities.

Showing off our funny faces, using the food pyramid.



I help one of the drama kids Tie-dying her shirt for the final production at the drama camp.

