

Cara Heckman- AmeriCorps Summer 2003 Presentation Lantern

While preparing myself for this job during training, I was quite worried. What if I didn't know how to help these people or couldn't help them in the right ways? I often doubted myself and my abilities to be of service in this position. Through training and preparation I learned more about the job and my placement. I was placed at the Presentation Lantern Center for the entire summer. As a drop-in center in downtown Dubuque, each day was going to be different and I had to prepare myself mentally for any challenges that may arise. In July I was also assigned to help with summer school at Irving. Both these experiences were incredibly life changing for me.



I worked very closely with several people at the centers to help with their pronunciation and comprehension of English. There was one family that came to the center three times a week to learn English at the same time I was able to work with a little boy who at the age of two years old was already fluent in both Spanish and English.

This women, from Taiwan, has been in the U.S. for one year. She came to the Center to work on her pronunciation and comprehension of English.



I also worked at Irving school with students about to enter the 3rd grade in summer school. We studied skunks, raccoons, and bats. I worked with each student individually throughout the four weeks on their reading, writing, word-building, and math skills.

My AmeriCorps experience was incredible. Helping others brought great joy to my life. I feel fortunate to have met so many wonderful people. Each person taught me a little something in life. I learned to be thankful for the education I have, to not judge others, to love, care, and to have fun in life.

This women, from Columbia was studying to be a CNA and wanted to further enhance her pronunciation so that she could pass her oral exams.

