

# Lynn Roling- AmeriCorps Summer 2003

## St. Mark Community Center

My summer working for AmeriCorps has been an incredibly awesome experience. It is a summer I will not soon forget. When I first signed up for AmeriCorps I don't think I had any clue how I was about to be changed. I have learned so much this summer and in the process I believe I have grown and changed. AmeriCorps has made my summer one worth remembering.

It is impossible not to get attached to these children. That is one of the many things I've learned. Working down at St. Mark's, I worked with mostly the same children all summer. Even after that first week, I got attached. When the kids come to your first programs, and then just stop coming, it is impossible not to sit there and wonder. You want to take all of them home with you; to make sure each of them has decent clothes, a shower and some positive attention. It seems like an impossible task. I know I have made a difference to some of these kids, but it feels like there is so much more left to be done.



As part of the grant for the Mentoring program, the kids have to give back to the community. They picked up litter on the last day of mentoring.

Through my experience with AmeriCorps I have learned more than I could ever write about in one little reflection, I feel like I could write a whole book about what I've learned. I think I went into this experience being a little scared, but now I can look back at my summer and know that I did something good. I made a difference, even if it was a little one.



Each Friday we visited places around the community. Here the kids explore the Arboretum.