

## Rachael Wagner- AmeriCorps Summer 2003

### Rotator

My 450-hour position AmeriCorps experience over the summer was one of the best I can remember. I had the opportunity to help in my community with children and really make a difference. I never would have imagined at the beginning of the term that I would be able to help in so many different ways this summer. Being a rotator allowed me to experience a variety of social and economic backgrounds.

I worked at UD for kids, Irving Summer School, Growing in the Garden, Thursday Library programming, and the playgrounds. Between all of these places I experienced a large variety of students and it taught me how to deal better with children from all backgrounds.



One of my favorite assignments with summer was organizing and teaching the library programs on Thursday afternoons for our Comiskey and Audubon playground children. Every week had a different theme that all of the activities followed. I really enjoyed planning the programs each week and seeing the kids enjoy them.



One theme was Captain Underpants. The kids decorated paper underpants and then raced against each other.



This summer has helped me to understand diversity of my surrounding community and how I can continue to help in the future. AmeriCorps also provided me with the chance to get to know other Members who were dedicated to helping children, which helped me form lasting friendships with them as well.