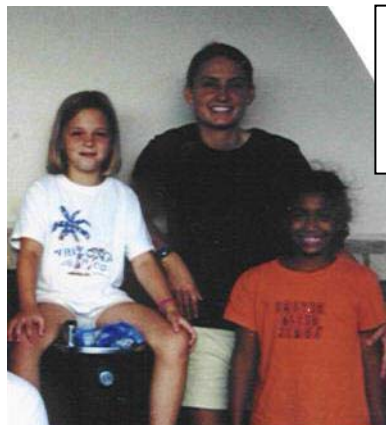


## Stephanie Price- AmeriCorps Summer 2003

### Comiskey

I heard about AmeriCorps from some of my friends back home, but never really understood what the program was all about. So when I received an e-mail from the Center for Experiential Learning at Loras College in Dubuque, I thought I should look into the program. I liked what I found out about AmeriCorps and applied for a position. I was placed at Comiskey Park for 300 hours.

Four square, water fights, trips to the library, and capture the flag were only a few of the amusing and exciting things I did at Comiskey. I would show up at Comiskey twice a day for three hours at a time and hang out with, play and talk to the children. It didn't seem like a job at all because I was having too much fun to be getting paid. On the playground, we played and created games, made art projects, completed educational units, and took field trips to local points of interest. The kids were learning, but the focus was on social skills.



The gang from Comiskey pause to smile for the camera.



Being at Comiskey and with the children everyday really taught me a lot about myself. It was through working with these young people that I learned the importance of early experiences, the value of a friend, and how curious young minds can be.



Making art projects was an everyday thing at the park.

Helping at Jump Start for Kindergarten allowed me to work in the schools also.



When I signed up for AmeriCorps, I thought I was signing up for summer camp or daycare, but when I started, I realized how wrong I was. AmeriCorps is more than a summer camp or daycare: it is a growing experience for children and oneself. It is a rewarding experience when you see the smiles on the children's faces when you show up at the park, or the hug you received when you leave for the night, or when the children solve a problem on their own that occurs during a game or project. My AmeriCorps membership has made an everlasting impression on me and I will never forget the children, students, teachers, and staff I had the pleasure of coming into contact with and getting to know.