

Erin Greenstein

Senior
Early Childhood Education
Norcross, GA

Volunteerism
Leadership
Collaboration
Legacy



STORIES OF SERVICE

When I started classes at Georgia College one of the first guest speakers in my Freshman Seminar class was Kendall Stiles, sharing information about the GIVE Center and all the programs that I could get involved in. I have always enjoyed working with children, and wanted to get involved in the Baldwin County elementary schools. I decided to get involved in the Red Cross Scrubby Bear program because it gave me the opportunity to jump right into the local schools and begin making a difference to some of the students. I began by teaching kindergarten students about personal hygiene and then began to look for other programs I could get involved in.

I became the Program Coordinator for the State Farm Weekly Reading Program, and the State Farm Good Neighbor Program. By partnering with State Farm, the Weekly Reading Program helped to bring a volunteer reader into local elementary schools once a week and the Good Neighbor Program taught lower elementary schools safety tips for neighborhood and school safety. By coordinating the State Farm programs, the plan for "Read to A Child Day" to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss also started. I applied for a grant for the program, but even though the grant was not awarded to the program, it started a tradition that continues to grow and reach more students each year.

When I entered the early childhood education cohort, I had less time that I was able to spend as a program coordinator. I applied for and became a member of the GIVE TEAM. For two years I have worked to inform the Georgia College community of volunteer opportunities they can be involved in.

My volunteer work through the GIVE Center has allowed me to impact so many students in the local schools. Now that I am student teaching in Baldwin County, I can see firsthand how these programs have affected the students, and how appreciative they are. Listening to students talk about how much they learned from the programs, and how much they enjoyed the visitors made me proud to be part of a group that cares so much about helping others. Getting to know the students has shown me how much a little attention can impact their lives and how I can impact a child's life through simple gestures. I have loved working in each of the programs I have been involved in, and have taken these experiences and focused them into becoming a teacher that advocates for community awareness and cooperation.

*Getting to know
the students has
shown me... how
I can impact
a child's life
through simple
gestures.*
