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Volunteerism
Leadership
Collaboration
Legacy



STORIES OF SERVICE

My name is Jennifer Arroyo, and my story of service begins with my freshman year of college. I have always done little things here and there but was never committed to any particular community service. I started freshman year with a little sister. She was awesome! When I first met her she was as girly as they come; by the end of our semester together she had learned how to throw a football, a Frisbee, and correctly kick a soccer ball. We always had a blast! I was unable to be a big sister again the next year because I was really focused on classes. However, I still wanted to volunteer. I just felt the urge to do it! So I did a few things here and there, some blood drives, and a long night with relay for life, but not a whole lot. Then it all changed... I got into trouble and HAD to do community service. I needed 10 hours and found myself really enjoying it. I thought that perhaps there was more I could find to do, so I became the student worker for the GIVE Center. I was able to get the inside scoop of all the really cool events and places I could volunteer. I found myself doing more and more service work. I really got into the Blood Drives and became co-servant leader with Judit Varga. Then I was on the board of directors for Santa's Miracle Fund's first year. I also became involved with PUSH America, Pi Kappa Phi's National Philanthropy. I enjoyed all of the organizations I worked for and found myself volunteering more and more. Last year I was able to win the Presidential Service Award with just over 100 hours, but this year I will far exceed that. I am excited that I will have over 500 hours! I can attribute a lot of my hours to being the servant leader for the John Sallstrom Blood Drives, but I also think that a good portion of my hours come from Intramurals. I have worked for intramurals since 2001 and realized the past couple of years that I did a lot of extra work that I didn't get paid for. I never thought anything of it, but after a conversation with Paul I realized that I was volunteering. I was excited to know I could earn community service hours for doing something I loved to do! I am anxious about next year since I will be leaving, and I am not sure how much I will be able to do in the "real world." I think that community service has changed my life. I realize how much just one person can do and can change. I have been able to inspire others to volunteer and find passions of their own. I think that has been the best part about it all! Being a volunteer takes time, but it gives so much more back. I guess that's my story... I know it's a little crazy and all over the place, but, hey, so am I.

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