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Volunteerism
Leadership
Collaboration
Legacy



STORIES OF SERVICE

Community service has always been a part of my life. I think it's like that with many people. You start helping when you are young, not even knowing that you are helping or volunteering, just doing it to make people smile. I think making people smile is a huge part of my drive to volunteer. The groups of people I volunteer with most are individuals with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. These are some of the most amazing people I've ever met. They are the most genuine, loving, appreciative people in my life. I work a lot with Special Olympics and the North Metro Miracle League (an adapted baseball league). I've been a Special Olympics coach for 4 years; I have been volunteering with Special Olympics since about the age of 5. I look forward to the weekend of Special Olympics Summer State Games all year long. That weekend in particular is so amazing. It makes every minute of training that we do all year long worth it. There are so many reasons this weekend is so special. Often, for first time athletes, it's the first time they have ever spent the night away from home. It is such an experience for all the athletes in independence, competition, social and a camp-like situation. These are things that these athletes don't get to experience as much as "typical" kids their age. Most of these kids just want to be treated like everyone else; to have the social experience every kid gets to have. It is an incredible feeling to be able to let them experience such an exciting time in their lives. They work so hard to prepare for the games. Then we're able to see them all get medals and be so proud of themselves and to see every parent be so excited that their child has succeeded. It's an honor to have been a part of each and every one of their lives even for a brief moment, to see each child smile, no matter their ability level. It is something that every child can do but doesn't always get the chance. Special Olympics is a place, an event that everyone that is there knows is so special. I hope to be able to see many more athletes smile throughout the years. I plan on being a Special Olympics Coach for a long time to come.

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