



HUMAN. KIND.

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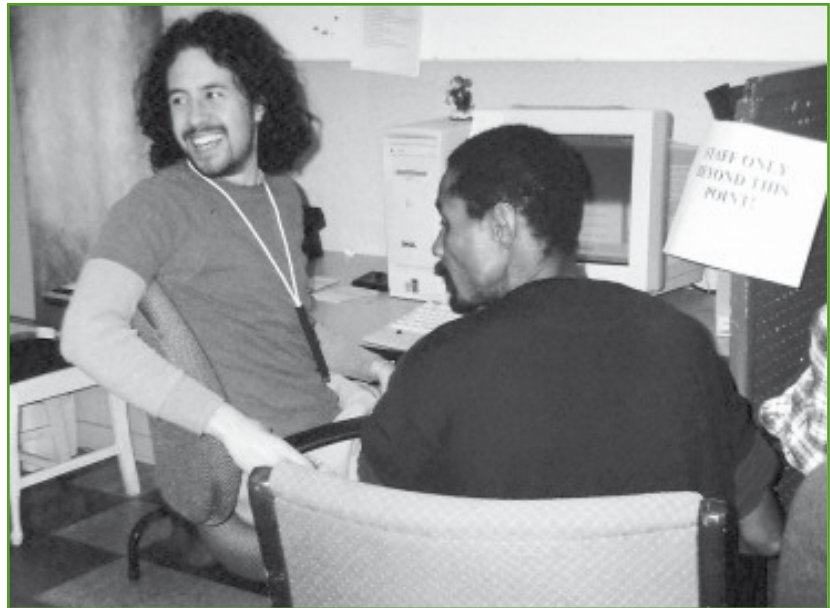
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YOUR WORLD,
YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE
IT BETTER.



Logan working with a client at PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter).

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGACIES

BY NDA CHICAGO MEMBER LOGAN QUAN

Each Notre Dame-AmeriCorps site has a specific place and story, a history that every member suddenly enters and modifies. These stories exist on a micro level – our specific classrooms, our schools, our organizations, etc. They also exist on a macro level – our neighborhoods and our cities. In the city of Chicago, our stories are indelibly tied to the neighborhoods. Chicago is a city divided, despite the supposed unity of this Midwestern metropolis. It's as innocuous as the Cubs/Sox debate, and as virulent as the continued segregation of Illinois school systems and communities. We're the third most segregated state, according to the Civil Rights Project at Harvard. And we know the fault lines. Englewood, Roseland, North Lawndale versus the Gold Coast, Wrigleyville, Old Town, Lincoln Park. Neighborhoods that rarely meet, and if they do, they meet as unequal partners in charitable ventures.

I work at one of those rare intersecting points in the neighborhood fault lines. I work in the Chicago Lawn neighborhood on the southwest side at a drop-in shelter for people who are homeless. The neighborhood is middle class, and racially diverse. Our shelter serves up to 35 guests five nights a week with food, clothes, toiletries and showers. During the day, we have case management, life improvement classes, computer classes and other referrals by appointment. We are supported entirely by volunteers – many from inner-ring suburbs or more prosperous neighborhoods. This is our pint-sized diversity awareness meeting – every night, people who are homeless sit down to eat with servers from much different backgrounds. It's not always a friendly exchange. Motives and actions are misinterpreted, and outbursts on racial prejudice are only slightly beneath the surface. But it's an exchange.

Frankly, it's an improvement. In 1960, the neighborhood was 99.9% white

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A MESSAGE FROM SISSY

Dear Friends,

Where does the time go? So much has happened since we opened another service year last September, but the time has flown by. Thanks to all of you who have given us time, money and support this year – we couldn't have done it without you!

Our volunteers have done great work this year, and I wish them all well as they move on to their next adventures. We're blessed and lucky to have many of our members coming back for a second year, but we also have several slots left to fill. We are still accepting applications for the 2006-2007 service year! If you have considered being a Notre Dame Mission Volunteer, or know someone who would like the opportunity to help others help themselves, now is the time! Please visit our website, www.ndmva.org, for more information.

I'm traveling this summer to Peru to finalize our plans for an international service site there. Our pilot program in Kenya has been tremendously successful, and we'll be increasing from two to four volunteers serving there next year. The demand for our volunteers is high, and your support is essential for the continued growth of this program. With your assistance, we can extend the good work of the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers to communities in need around the globe.

Have a happy and a peaceful summer,

Sissy

MERCI*ASANTE SANA*TACK*MAHALO
Notre Dame Mission Volunteers thanks everyone who chose to support us financially between April 1, 2006 and June 30, 2006.

The following Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur participated in the Dollar-a-Month Club. We are extremely grateful to these sisters, who each donated \$1, or more, per month.

Marie Veronica Maguire
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**Join the
Dollar-a-Month
Club!
You can help
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make a
difference
with as little
as \$12 a year.**

ALUMNI UPDATES!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
FILL US IN ON YOUR LIFE AFTER NDA AT
WWW.NDMVA.ORG/ALUMNI

Maria Nicolosi (2003-2005 Baltimore): Maria currently attends the University of Baltimore, where she studies graphic design. After graduation next spring, she'd like to work as communications director for a non-profit.

Kirsten Grothe (2002-2003 San Francisco, 2003-2004 Los Angeles): Kirsten teaches second grade in Menlo, CA (www.beechwoodschool.org). She also volunteers with Student Ministries at Peninsula Covenant Church in Redwood City, and sings, writes and acts in her free time.

Sara Mahan (2001-2003 Boulder): After serving two terms in Boulder, Sara traveled to Barcelona for a semester before returning to her hometown of Portland, OR. While working in the education field, she's also taken time out to visit France and to study Tae Kwan Do and guitar. This summer, Sara began studying linguistics at Portland State University.



Evelyn Hoffman (1998-1999 Cincinnati, 1999-2000 Apopka): Evelyn (left) lives in Miami and teaches first grade. She loves her job, and knows it's something she wouldn't have pursued if not for her NDMVA experience. Evelyn encourages other alums interested in the field to check out www.miamiteachingfellows.org for information on a program that helps non-education majors become teachers.

Faith Mathews (2003-2005 Baltimore): Faith is a Catholic Worker in Rochester, NY, where she's doing her part to end oppression and "fight the man" nonviolently.

*MOLTE GRAZIE*THANK YOU*MUITO OBRIGATO*DIOLCH*

We also extend our gratitude to donors who gave the following amounts:

\$100 - \$500

Claire & Francis McCall
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Virginia Mulhern in honor of Joe Bruce, SJ

SNAPSHOTS

Updates and reflections on the service year from around the country:

Boulder: One success story that I am proud of deals with one of our 10th grade Dreamer girls, Elizabeth. I had heard many stories about Elizabeth driving around without a license. Initially, I thought it might be effective to have an officer come in to talk about the consequences of driving without a license. Then I realized that our Dreamers are teenagers and should have the same privileges as other teenagers, regardless of their financial or social standing. I looked into how they could enroll in a Driver's Education program and decided to have them fill out the Dreamer Incentive Scholarship for these lessons. I was very proud after we registered Elizabeth and then found out that she passed her permit exam. Not only am I thrilled that Elizabeth is well on her way to getting her driver's license, but I am also extremely proud of her responsible and resilient attitude with respect to her life choices



Seattle Site Director Martha Tierney and Assistant Apopka Site Director Laura Firtel at MidYear in Washington, DC.

Los Angeles: Two years ago, a Los Angeles member began working at a social services outreach center. She was a high school drop-out and a single mother of a young son. Her goal at that time was to complete her GED and perhaps obtain a beautician's license in order to better provide for her child. After two years as an AmeriCorps member she has experienced success in her work, and gained considerable confidence. She has also experienced the joy of helping others and now has expanded her goals to go to college and eventually obtain a Masters in Social Work.



CONTINUED FROM COVER

– mostly Polish, Irish, and Lithuanian. In 1966, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. picked Chicago Lawn and the adjacent Gage Park neighborhood as testing grounds for his open housing campaign during the Chicago Freedom Movement. On August 5, 1966, King and his allies marched on Marquette Park. Neighborhood residents gathered. The atmosphere was already tense as six days earlier, ten cars had been set on fire by residents upset about the presence of civil rights workers. The march turned into a riot, and Dr. King fell when hit in the face by a rock. King later stated he had “never seen as much hatred and hostility on the part of so many people.” In the 1970s, the American Nazi party moved its headquarters to the area in an attempt to unite the opposition to integration measures.

The story of Chicago Lawn is an ongoing one. But it's a success. The Nazis left, the neighborhood is fairly integrated, and no civil rights leaders have been publicly attacked lately. And at one little shelter, people are meeting each other across racial and socio-economic lines. It's rarely perfect, but it's working. Our team lives with the ongoing hope that our small measures can lead to systemic change across Chicago. It's an intimidating task, but one that can be accomplished.



The 2005-2006 Notre Dame Mission Volunteers-AmeriCorps team.

Apopka: In years past, it has been difficult to recruit high school students for after-school tutoring. The students always seemed to have other responsibilities, opportunities and priorities. After-school tutoring simply wasn't considered "cool". This year, we have 2 NDAs who have really made connections with students, especially the non-English speakers. In fact, we were tutoring so many high school students that we began having difficulty transporting them all to the tutoring location. Apopka High School administrators and teachers have been so impressed with the performance of the students attending after-school tutoring – many went from Fs to Cs and Bs – that we were given a classroom right on the campus and today we offer afternoon tutoring at the school. The school makes materials, supplies and computers available for this effort.



Seattle member Alexandra Kruse enjoys the natural beauty of Washington State.

Seattle: Roberto is a recent immigrant from Mexico to the United States. He knows very little English but because of his age he was placed in an Algebra class, which is taught in English by a teacher who speaks absolutely no Spanish. All year Roberto has attended all his classes and has sat in Algebra trying to understand what it is going on but because he only speaks Spanish he takes in little to nothing. He learned about the homework help program and the fact that I speak Spanish. The next day Roberto came to the program with a semester's worth of Algebra. Every day he comes in, opens up his Algebra book to the lesson he wants to do and we sit down and work hard on it. It usually takes about two hours to do one assignment but I have never heard him say anything about quitting or that he hates Algebra. I have never seen a person so determined to understand a subject. When we finish a lesson, I ask him if that's it and every time he laughs and turns the page to the next lesson. He has worked so hard and is so eager to learn that when another student asks a question, in English or Spanish, about Algebra, he hunkers down next to them and tries to help them out. He has made amazing progress and it's all because of his determination to learn Algebra even if the odds might seem stacked against him.

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BUILD YOUR RESUME, BUT SO YOU
CAN BUILD YOURSELF.”

~ AUTHOR UNKNOWN

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- \$10,000 - Fully support one volunteer for one year
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- \$2,400 - Sponsor the living allowance and expenses of one volunteer
- \$2,000 - Supply airfare to and from the international site
- \$600 - Fund one year of volunteer housing
- \$400 - Provide volunteer orientation and training
- \$100 - Pay for a ND member retreat