

Lessons Learned from Community Service Christina “CC” Morrison



I won't pretend that I have any words of wisdom or know how to solve all of the world's problems because I don't. I won't pretend that one person can ease the pain of all those just trying to survive because that will never happen. I don't even know where to begin to solve those kinds of problems. But what I do know is this; it is important to give back, to help others in any way you can.

Until you have been down on your luck you will never know how much a simple thing like a Christmas card, a piece of art, or even a quick hello can mean to someone. When life gets rough it's easy for people to forget the good in humanity, and for the disabled—for those singled out since childhood because they were born “different”—it can be even harder.

Imagine being 5 years old and losing your sight, or living your entire life without seeing the face of your best friend. The students at the McGreal Sight Center in Concord New Hampshire face these and other challenges everyday. My challenge was to design a piece that would “brighten” up their day and learning environment. I jumped at this wonderful opportunity to create something that would appeal to the sighted and vision impaired, and it would be something they could discuss and enjoy together. I have learned that there is nothing more meaningful than discovering that people really do care about what happens to each other. If providing a metal sculpture for a school would make people feel better about themselves and their lives than there is no reason not to do so? The reactions of those at the McGreal Sight Center proved just how important one person's concern for the community can be in making a difference.

During the holiday season people become more and more generous, showering friends with gifts and donating money and food to different charities. People who are down on their luck, disabled, or just trying to improve their children's lives are around all year long. While this time of year often seems to make people think more about community service, there are still many who “fall through the cracks” each year.

My community service experience at the McGreal Sight Center has made me realize that there are always children and adults who believe no one cares, so in desperation they turn to drugs, violence, or even suicide. Unfortunately, there will always be a little girl who talks funny , a little boy who is confined to his wheelchair or a family who is on the verge of losing everything due to circumstances beyond their control. Reach out to them.. Sit down and talk with them. Make a difference in any way that you can.

Community Service doesn't have to be a big event; it could be just 5 minutes of your time. If you don't give back to the people around you, the society that like it or not, has allowed you to be who you are today, than who will be there when you need some help and support.

Do not think of those around you who need assistance in terms of their need, but rather think of the people they could be if only they had a little help or acknowledgment from someone who cares.

