

“Service Learning was more than fun; it was more engaged with human relations than any essay I would have possibly typed up late into the night. - Henrik”

"I first ran into Troy through my Human Relations class. We had a choice to write something or do some sort of volunteering. Well I thought, 'Volunteering? Heck, maybe we could give it a shot!' I went to ask our teacher Margie about it and she sent me off to Troy's office right in the middle of our lecture. I was interested in something nearby and we found a senior care facility in Plymouth called Clare Bridge that Troy had done some work with in the past. With no formal experience of service learning in the past I didn't really know what to expect. I wasn't all too sure how it would connect with my studies but at least I would have fun, right? Well for me it was more than fun; it was more engaged with human relations than any essay I would have possibly typed up late into the night. The experience was really about having fun and doing something meaningful at the same time and it really changed the way I looked at things. The next spring I volunteered with Centro, an organization that brings together the Twin Cities Latino community to a little Zocalo located on Chicago Ave. I did it in conjunction with my Spanish culture course and I was so empowered I decided to look into doing an internship that summer. By now I had been active with the Student Volunteer Club and learned about the options available. I talked with an organization that really fit my values at that time in my life Eureka really hit the spot. I was doing internships with two other organizations simultaneously (Brain Injury Association and Center for Victims of Torture) on top of working with Troy on the service learning program. If there is a work to describe it, it is 'empowered'. It is a word that Troy uses and he does it well. It will stick with me for the rest of my life and I hope it will radiate onto others." - Henrik