

“My service learning experience touched my heart and opened my eyes. - Melissa”

"I completed my service learning hours at Goodwill Easter Seals in St. Paul. My Intro to Business class took a tour there as part of our curriculum. I was humbled by all of the wonderful things they do there. Here I thought it was just a place to donate used items and clothing and buy gently used inexpensive items. They are so much more than that and given the fact they are a non-profit organization and advertising is limited, I'm not sure I ever would have learned this had it not been for the tour. Because of what I learned on the tour as far as the services Goodwill offers and the barriers they work with to get people educated and working again, I decided to complete my service learning hours there. I also communicated with one of our tour guides, Zachary, directly and expressed my interest and offered my time and services for future volunteer opportunities. I was proud to do my service learning there. Two things that touched my heart were the fact they are able to reuse medical equipment (wheelchairs, grabbers, crutches, etc.) for people that may not have health insurance so they can get the care and equipment they need. The other thing was the thousands of pounds in clothing they send to a partner in Texas that ships the clothing out to Africa. I went to Africa in the summer of 2006 so this really hit close to home for me. Although the kind people I met in Africa didn't have much, they were some of the most grateful, happy people I've ever been blessed to meet. Knowing that we are sending clothing out to them touched my heart knowing how happy they would be to receive such gifts. My service learning experience touched my heart and opened my eyes. I'm excited for future volunteering opportunities with Goodwill Easter Seals because of the kind of work they do. They truly show that working together and helping each other in our communities really goes a long way."- Melissa