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Education 206

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November ARC Event

As part of the education program at Manchester College, students volunteer their time to put on programs for the ARC of Wabash. Some of these programs take place on campus, while others are off campus. The programs are intended to be fun and entertaining for the ARC members. Some of the events have been bowling, dancing, attending athletic events, and serving the members dinner. The members of ARC like to visit campus as well as take other field trips to different locations. On November 15, 2008 the ARC of Wabash came to visit Manchester College once again.

On November 15, 2008 I volunteered at the ARC event here on campus. This month's ARC event was for Thanksgiving. We prepared a meal which consisted of crackers and cheese, spaghetti and sauce, and garlic bread. After all of the guest completed their meal, everyone took part in a game of bingo. I arrived at four o'clock and helped spread cheese on crackers. After the plates of crackers were completed and set at the middle of each table, I moved on to my next task. Each member of ARC received a certificate for attending the event. I helped create these certificates that were handed out at the end of the evening. Completing the crackers and certificates took quite some time and by the time we were finished, the guest started to arrive! This is when the fun began.

At first, I was unsure what to expect upon their arrival. I was afraid that I would not be comfortable working with the ARC members, but I quickly realized they were just like me. As

the guest arrived, I held the doors for them as they walked in. I also helped them find their chairs around the tables. The guest were very friendly and fun to work with, and by visiting with several of them I found out that they share the same interest and values as I do. Each had their own way of communicating which led to a wonderful learning experience towards the middle of the evening! Once all of the guest were seated and situated, it was time to serve dinner. Each volunteer took part with helping serve the guest. My particular job was to help serve the guest water. I volunteered for this tasks thinking it would be easy, I couldn't have been more wrong.

As I started making my way around the room with a pitcher of water, I soon realized many of the guest were unable to verbally tell me whether they wished to have water or not. This is where there wonderful learning experience began. At first I did not know what to do, but I quickly found other ways of communicating with the guest that could not speak. I pointed at the water and then pointed at their cup. This worked for most of them, however others were unsure what to think of my actions. After finally finding ways to communicate with each and every guest, I felt relieved. It is different to personally work with these individuals than it is to simply learn about them. Being able to work with them personally gave me an insight that I have never had before. I am very grateful to of had this experience working with the ARC members.

As the members ate their dinner I helped clean up behind the scenes. I volunteered from four o'clock to six thirty. I had never attended an ARC event until this one. I was always to afraid that I would be uncomfortable around the members of ARC, but this was not the case. I loved working with the members and associating with them. It is an honor to have helped make their evening fun and exciting. After attending this ARC event I have learned how fun and beneficial they are for everyone involved. I look forward to future ARC events and plan on

volunteering when I am able. This was an experience I will never forget!