



# The Project YES! Volunteer

The newsletter of AmeriCorps Project YES! at the Northwestern University Settlement House

Vol II no. 1 Fall 2006

## Dates to Remember

Nov 21<sup>st</sup>. NUSH  
Thanksgiving  
Dinner

Dec 10 – Inaugural  
Jane Addams Day in  
Illinois

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## -ABOUT US-

### PROJECT YES!

connects caring adults with youth in and around the West Town community through mentorship, educational, service, artistic, and recreational activities in order to support their academic achievement, provide them with positive alternatives to destructive behaviors, and foster an ethic of service in the entire community.

## Project YES! Welcomes New Corps

On September 18, 2006 Project YES! welcomed a brand new group of AmeriCorps members to the Northwestern Settlement. For the next three weeks the 31 full time members were put through a rigorous orientation. This year's orientation included many discussions on issues facing the West Town community, workshops put together by host sites, as well as opportunities to explore Chicago and connect with the city.

Interviews for this year's Corps began in early April and continued late into the summer. The assembled group of members come from some of the best colleges and universities in the country. Many of them also bring with them past volunteer experience as well as non-profit work experience. Members began serving at their sites on October 10.

Project YES! is excited to welcome two new sites this year: Rauner College Prep and Pritzker College Prep. These brand new high schools are expansion campuses of the Noble Network of Charter Schools. Both sites have two AmeriCorps members serving this year.

As usual the beginning of the service year has proved to be a busy time with members working on many different projects. Aside from orientation, which included a four day Work Bee at House in the Wood, members have been planning for Make a Difference Day as well as Enchanted Castle. Members also recently participated in AmeriCorps Opening Day in Bloomington, IL.

Even with the busy start all are confident that this will prove to be another successful year for Project YES!

## Project YES! Class of 2006 – We Wish You Well

July 31, 2006 marked the end of another service year for Project YES!. The class of 2006 were witness to many changes for the program. Lowell Elementary, in the Humboldt Park community, was added as a first year site with five Project YES! members successfully completing their service there. The class of 2006 also said farewell to Shea Coughlin as the Program Manager of Project YES! Lauren Nichols and



Patrick Bader joined the office staff; Lauren as the new AmeriCorps Leader and Patrick taking Shea's place as Program Manager.

Although there were many changes, the high level of service

remained the same. The class of 2006 organized over 1400 volunteers through 42 different volunteer projects. In-classroom and out-of-classroom goals were also met with

many, many students tutored and mentored throughout the course of the year.

Many alumni of the class of 2006 are already involved in new and exciting things since graduation.

Anastasia Barantchouk is teaching English in Korea

Jessica Galant is a first year law student at Chicago-Kent

Alissa Catiis is pursuing a graduate degree in social work at the University of Chicago

# Project YES! Staff and Corps Member Begin New Work for Settlement



Shea Coughlin –  
Development Assistant

Northwestern University  
Settlement & Noble  
Street Charter High  
School

Shea Coughlin, who served as a Project YES! member in the 2002-2003 program year and who worked as the Project YES! Program Manager for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 program years, has taken a new position at the Settlement in development department.

“I am interested in a career in non-profit development so when an opportunity for such a title became available here at the Settlement, I pursued it. I am thrilled to be able to maintain close ties with Project YES staff and members, being only an office away from the program. I will continue to support the work AmeriCorps programs do across the country, especially here in Chicago. I highly value the skills set and experience that came with my 3 years of AmeriCorps work, both as a member and later as staff.”



Mike Shiel – Teen  
Program Coordinator

Northwestern  
University Settlement

The Settlement is happy to welcome Mike Shiel, who served as a member of Project YES! during this past program year, as the new Teen Program Coordinator for Noble Street Charter High School.

“Last year with AmeriCorps Project YES! I found the community and common goals of our AmeriCorps group were inspiring to work with everyday. While I miss that community of like minded, and motivated AmeriCorps members, I have been very fortunate to be able to stay a part of the Settlement and Noble St. communities as the Teen Program Coordinator. I’ll admit, I miss working directly with the students, but I am excited to still be a part of the education students get here at Noble St.”

## October 28, 2006 – Project YES! Make a Difference Day



Volunteers and Project YES! members painting murals at Peabody Elementary

Project YES! members along with over 120 adult and youth volunteers participated in two different projects for this year’s Make a Difference Day community service project.

Service projects were held at Peabody Elementary and Onward House.

At Peabody Elementary murals were painted in two cafeterias and one hallway. The murals in the cafeterias focused on healthy food choices; one displaying dinosaurs and healthy snacks and the other displaying cartoon fruits, vegetables, and other foods running a race (the healthiest foods are the winners). Volunteers from Noble Street High School contributed greatly to the murals at Peabody.

At Onward House volunteers worked on a vast array of projects to help spruce up the house and surrounding grounds. Volunteers spread mulch in the playground, built flower beds, cleaned windows and participated in various painting projects. Volunteers at Onward House included AmeriCorps members from Jumpstart DePaul as well as high school students from Pritzker College Prep, Rauner College Prep, and Senn High School. By all accounts the day was a huge success with tons of great service accomplished.

If you are interested in volunteering with Project YES! in the future please send a message to our email volunteer hotline at:

[volunteeryes@nush.org](mailto:volunteeryes@nush.org)

# Member Page



Name: Molly Maguire

Hometown: Chicago, IL

College and Major:  
UIC, English Writing

Favorite Movie: Man with a Movie  
Camera

In my free time I . . . read books,  
cook food, dance

After Project YES! I see myself . . .  
getting stuff done.



Name: Patrick Gaughan

Hometown: Elmhurst, IL

College and Major: University of  
Wisconsin-Madison, History

Favorite Movie: Casablanca

In my free time I . . . enjoy watching  
movies of all sorts, hanging out with  
friends new and old, and watching  
college football.

After Project YES! I see myself . . .  
continuing my education in order to  
receive my teacher certification from  
Northeastern Illinois so I can one  
day be a high school history  
teacher.



Name: Lisa Friedlen

Hometown: Highland Park, IL

College and Major: University of  
Colorado at Boulder, Sociology

Favorite Movie: City of God

In my free time I . . . see live music  
and volunteer

After Project YES! I see myself . . .  
going to graduate school for my  
MSW, and doing clinical social work.

## Orientation Fun

Orientation was three weeks of teambuilding exercises, guest speakers, and getting acquainted with Chicago. During the first week, we went to House in the Woods Camp in Wisconsin, where we had fun and got to know each other in a more casual setting. Another highlight was an activity called “the Amazing Race,” in which we rambled all over downtown Chicago, from one clue to the next, finding out about the complex city we live in. We were finally reminded of the reasons behind what we were doing when we toured all seven of the sites. Seeing the people we could be working with got us excited about our placements. Although we had a really great three weeks together, by the end, we were enthusiastic about starting at the sites.

-Esther Lindström

Each month we  
will spotlight  
some of our  
members in the  
member page



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## Project YES! Welcomes New AmeriCorps Leader



Lauren Nichols  
AmeriCorps Leader  
2006-2007

Project YES! welcomes Lauren Nichols as the new AmeriCorps leader. The Project YES! AmeriCorps leader is a second year member position filled each year by a Project YES! member who shows great skill and commitment during their first member year.

Lauren is a graduate of Marquette University in Milwaukee and hails from the Ravenswood neighborhood of Chicago. Last year Lauren served as a member at Noble Street Charter High School.

Aside from her duties at the school Lauren was also an active member of Illinois LeaderCorps, the member led AmeriCorps council. At the end of this summer Lauren was elected president of LeaderCorps for the 2006-2007 program year.

“I’m looking forward to my year as AmeriCorps Leader for a few different reasons. My experience as a member last year was amazing. I enjoyed working at Noble Street Charter High School and was able to accomplish good things with the students. I loved the working environment and was able to thrive within it. I felt very supported as a member with Project YES! and I look forward to helping provide that support to this year’s members. Having the opportunity to become part of this community and immerse myself in the culture and activities has been incredible. I’m so glad to still be a part of the Settlement and the community. Also, I’m excited to get a more administrative experience in the nonprofit world. It is my hope to stay in the nonprofit community after Project YES! so I can only benefit from all that I’ll learn this year.”