



FINDING MY HOME

HOW I FOUND A FAMILY AS AN LV

QUANEESHA SHIELDS, LV 17-19

My experience of serving as a Lasallian Volunteer has changed my life personally, professionally and spiritually. As an LV I entered fully into the Lasallian family and now know that it is home. As a full-time graduate student at Saint Mary's College of California, I am committed to the key elements I experienced as an LV: faith, service and community. I live this out by being a part of the Monument Corp community at Saint Mary's and having the privilege to work with students at De La Salle Academy in Concord, California, and Alameda Point Collaborative in Alameda County, California.



As I reflect on my time as a Lasallian Volunteer, I think about how both of my communities in San Francisco, California, and St. Louis, Missouri, made me feel like I had a home away from my family home in Pennsylvania. When I was in San Francisco, our community put together a Super Bowl party so that I could watch my Eagles dominate the New England Patriots. Go Eagles! That is a memory I will never forget. Just being together was enough to put a smile on my face. When I think about my St. Louis community, I immediately recall our time together. We enjoyed going out to dinner for events, such as birthdays, as well as simply spending time with

During my time as an LV I experienced spiritual growth that continues today. I count my blessings every day, and I never forget to pray. **Being a Lasallian Volunteer was a blessing and opportunity that connected me with the Lasallian charm and placed me on the path to finding what feeds my soul.** Lasallian Volunteers brought me to the understanding that I feel most at home when I am serving others. I learned that the blessings I receive spiritually are to be shared with others. This desire that I have in my heart to serve others is why I remain a part of the Lasallian family. My authenticity and passion to simply love others through whatever form of love that looks like is when I feel most at home.

one another. Being in both communities was a positive experience for me and I experienced such personal growth.

I learned that community is not always easy, but at the end of the day, my community members care about my well-being, and that is more than I could ever ask for. I am truly grateful for the privilege and learning experience that I had the honor to be a part of in two different amazing communities.

Quaneesha Shields, LV 17-19, served at De Marillac Academy in San Francisco, California and La Salle Middle School in St. Louis, Missouri. She is currently an LV Scholar at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga. As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Lasallian Volunteers, this story is one in a series of reflections by LV alums on how the LV experience has impacted their lives. Additional reflections can be found at www.LasallianVolunteers.org.

