

I was so impressed with the good work of NOVACO and Executive Director, Victoria Neeley and her staff that I decided to take a 6-month sabbatical from my work to volunteer. Volunteering at NOVACO was my main focus from April through October 2008 and it was an amazing adventure.

Volunteering has its advantages—rarely do you do the same thing from one day to the next. It makes it exciting to come to work! My first week, I got to help with some of the final preparations for the Gala & Auction in April. The next week I helped scoop ice cream with “Free Scoop Day” at Ben & Jerry’s. I have attended and helped with LifeSkills classes several times, including helping the kids make Mother’s Day presents. I’ve helped to clean out a unit in preparation for a new family moving in, made phone calls, attended a training class, worked with the summer interns, and “oriented” new staff.

I also supported administrative activities, since that’s where my skills are most useful. I continue to be impressed with how much gets done with so few staff. I have come to appreciate how much of the core mission of NOVACO is achieved by volunteers. So few can accomplish so much because of the dedicated churches, sponsor organizations and individuals who work with families, serve on the NOVACO Board and volunteer for projects. I have enjoyed my time at NOVACO immensely. I feel like I’ve been able to make a difference. No matter what activity I was pursuing, Victoria was always there encouraging and thanking me and that’s something you don’t get at work every day.

My favorite part of volunteering has been working with the family. I didn’t realize how much I would learn from them and the other families I met. Last summer I learned about generosity and perseverance, relationships with other people and the love of God. All of these things I learned from the families at NOVACO.

I’m so blessed to have had this experience. I thank Victoria for her patience with me, the rest of the NOVACO staff for “adopting” me and I look forward to playing a small role going on into the future when I return to my “day job”.

- Kim Hintzman

2008 NOVACO

Volunteer of the Year

