

Matt Brock '04



Service is not a choice for Matt. He doesn't feel obligated to volunteer, nor does he say his schedule is just too full. Even during his final semester on campus with full days of student teaching, Matt still managed to find time to serve others. "People use not having enough time as an excuse not to volunteer, so I show them my schedule," he says. "I tell them, 'Look—if I can find time, you can find time.' You can always find time if you want to."

From his days growing up in Fountain City, Indiana, to his four years spent at the University of Indianapolis, Matt Brock has always found time for service. "Through volunteering I've met so many different types of people, and it's really helped to open my eyes," he said. An elementary education major, Matt originally came to the University because of its physical therapy program. But after spending time during the summer working at Camp Riley with special-needs kids, Matt realized that he wanted to be in the classroom.

"I always thought about teaching special education," he said. "I think that children with special needs are often not served as well as they could be. I want to make sure that when I'm teaching, I'm thinking about their individual needs and making the school work for them, not making them fit into the school."

Before his semester of student teaching, Matt often worked with kids in tutoring programs and at schools that needed help

with their special education programs.

"There are so many service learning opportunities in Indy," he said. "I like different things for different reasons, so it just depends on what I want to do at the time."

As a member of Circle K, a student volunteer group on campus, Matt participated and planned many service opportunities. "Volunteering definitely shaped my college experience and was a big part of it. Our Circle K group spent time working at the Horizon House—a homeless shelter downtown—and we helped to raise money for the Julian Center—a place for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Every place you volunteer kind of changes you," he said. "But I believe there is something for everyone out there. If you want to get involved, there's a way you can do it and have fun."

As Matt looks ahead to his life after college, he's not sure where it will lead. "I'm glad I came to UIndy" he said, "and I'm surprised that it's gone by this fast. It doesn't feel like I should be done."

One of the hardest service opportunities for him to leave is his relationship with Camp Riley and Isanogel, a camp in Muncie, Ind., for kids with special needs. "I love meeting kids from all over the Midwest, and you get to meet a lot of cool kids. Working at those camps is one of the neatest things I've ever done, and I hope I can volunteer there again someday."

What is certain is that Matt will find new ways to serve others and to help those in need. "I think volunteering should be something everyone does," he said. "Society doesn't work unless people give back, so you have to. It's not really a choice for me; it's just the way people should do things."

—Jennifer Huber

— Harvey Showalter Future Alumni Award 2004

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(p. 106) Photograph of Matt Brock with elementary school students.