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My job of working with children was an amazing experience. I served as a male role model at Caroline Mission to 4-5 year old children in a day care. While working in the day care during the morning I would supervise recreation, prepare and implement activities, and read to the children. Since most of these children had no male stability in their lives, I primarily just provided them with much love and care. During the afternoon I worked with the after school program and taught a writing class to 4th and 5th graders.

While I enjoyed working with the children, I encountered great struggles with the staff I worked with. I was never given the support I needed to do my job to the best of my ability. With the support of JVC, I found a new job for the summer months of my volunteer year. Upon leaving Caroline Mission I contemplated whether I was successful. The following journal entry captures the most rewarding experience of my JVC year:

“I finally decided I had to leave Caroline Mission. I was never given the confidence I needed to work with the kids. SO anyway- I read my old journal to see what my first entry about my job at Caroline was. I wrote ‘I learned of one girl- Alexis- who lost her mother last Christmas. Her mother was my age (22). She (Alexis) is living with her grandparents and they are having difficulty raising her. This is an example of how I hope to help children.’

My journal entry continued “Thank you Jesus for answering my prayers! I taught Alexis to smile. When she sees me she gives me a huge smile- and a couple weeks ago I asked her who gave her that smile and she said to me “You did.” WOW I SUCCEEDED AT CAROLINE! THANK YOU JESUS.”

This is just one of many incredible stories of my volunteer year. Now that I have been away from JVC for over a year, I know that it was the most amazing year of my life. Most importantly to me now, JVC provided me with the incredibly close friends from all over the country and an experience of which I am proud to say ruined me for life!