



Rothgeb Scholarship Student Ends Year on a Good Note

Jimmy Shinn received the Rothgeb Scholarship for 2008 and 2009. To complete his requirements for the scholarship, Jimmy has volunteered his talents for sixteen hours each semester in his community of Fredonia. One of his sites for volunteering has been at the Fredonia High School with Mark Dice, working with fifth grade band students. A second site has been at the First United Methodist church.

Jimmy describes his experience enthusiastically: “The first thing that I hear before I even open the door [to the band room] is a mass of notes from a variety of instruments from everything from a tenor saxophone to a trumpet, and a few clarinets. Then I walk into the room and the whole room gets quiet and I hear a great big shout from about thirty fifth grade band students saying, ‘Hey, Jimmy!’”

Jimmy is often “handed a trumpet whose valves are not working correctly by one or many of the students,” so he immediately fixes the instruments. In a few minutes he is listening for sour notes to help correct. As a trumpet player himself, he has found it rewarding to assist the young students as they struggle through some of the beginning band book lessons.

Jimmy says, “The kids enjoy me coming in and playing for them before class starts and even teaching them some fun songs that they are able to play.” He adds, “My times at the high school teaching the kids brings back memories of when I was starting out and my band director was helping me with notes that I couldn’t seem to get right, and at times I know how frustrated that he got with me, but never let it show. Overall, the experiences that I have had in the world of teaching...have been great and it furthers my want to become a teacher.”

Jimmy’s volunteer work at First United Methodist Church involved serving as a shepherd for the Sprouts after school program. The Sprouts are third through fifth grade students who are offered Bible stories, crafts, and other activities. Jimmy was responsible for moving the students from one activity to the next and then for helping them in their new activities.

The Rothgeb’s are pleased that Jimmy has completed his volunteer services, sharing his talents with his community and look forward to helping another student in the future.