

The Story of One



Ashley Sanders found her love for dance and a desire to help others at Guadalupe Parkway Center

Ashley Sanders was 5 years old when her mom found Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Neighborhood Centers. She enrolled Ashley in the Pre-K program and encouraged her to participate in extracurricular activities. Ashley began taking dance classes at the center and wanted to learn more. She continued taking classes and performing in recitals at the Lubbock Civic Center. Ashley loved the recitals and decided that she wanted to be a dancer.

Ashley's passion for dance continued into elementary school, junior high, and high school. She also danced with Ballet of Lubbock. Her dancing helped her get into cheer leading and she cheered throughout high school. Ashley is currently attending Texas Tech University and plans to graduate this December with a bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sports Science. She plans to continue her education by attending nursing school.

Ashley feels that the center had a dramatic impact in her life because they helped her prepare for school and also introduced her to dancing. She feels that coming from her social and economic background, without the center she might not have ever had an opportunity to succeed in school and fall in love with dance.

Ashley came back to visit the center 2 years ago and fell in love with the children. She found a strong desire to help children the way that she had been helped years ago. Ashley began volunteering and now is working as a supervisor and team leader at the Madison Park Center.



The centers provide after school and summer programs for children, ages Pre-K through 7th grade, create opportunities for growth, learning and building self-esteem. Activities include academic homework assistance and enrichment, sports and recreation, character development, dance and fine arts, computer skills, Kids' Cafe, community events and scouting.



Dela Esqueda, Director of Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Neighborhood Centers says that Ashley's dedication to volunteering, her life experiences and her success make her an ideal employee and role model for the children at the centers.

Ashley is an absolute model for the success of the organization. She can relate to the children through her experiences and empower the children to succeed. Ashley is a positive role model who is making a difference in the lives of 75 to 100 children each day.

Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Neighborhood Centers is one of the 23 community partner agencies of the Lubbock Area United Way.

We feel that Ashley is a perfect example of what it means to "Live United"

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