

# ARCHBISHOP MAY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS – *Where Are They Now?*



**MATT EASTMAN – 2008 awardee**

1. Was there a key influence at Duchesne that prompted you to be so interested and involved in service? Please give specifics if possible.

Before I started at Duchesne, I always knew that I wanted to work with kids. I began volunteering at the local day camp during the summers and worked alongside counselors to help provide a fun experience for the children in the program.

2. Have you continued to be involved in service in your life after Duchesne? Please give a few examples, if possible.

While in college, I was part of multiple campus organizations, including my fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi. I served as an executive board member and participated in many community service projects, including street cleanings and ramp builds. We also held an annual event called "No Boundaries Week," a week dedicated to highlighting awareness of physical disabilities and fundraising for local non-profit organizations. Following graduation, I began teaching in elementary schools in St. Charles and St. Louis counties. I continued to volunteer in many school-sponsored clubs, including Girls on the Run where I helped kids build self-confidence. For the past two years, I was a 5th grade teacher, and part of the curriculum was to teach service learning to my students. I really enjoyed speaking with my students about my experiences and, in turn, hearing about their experiences and seeing their passion for helping others.

3. We know you've done a lot for others; what do you feel you've gained in the time you've spent in the service of others? What have you taken away from the experience(s)?

In my mind, service is giving without expecting to receive. However, any time I find myself reaching out to someone else, I receive something very special in return: a sense of fulfillment by helping others. I have developed a strong sense of empathy as well as gratitude for those that have come into my life. I regularly put myself in someone else's shoes and wonder what I can do to make his or her day better. Each person has their own gifts to offer the world. When people help people, everyone can have that same sense of fulfillment.

Please also let us know what you are doing now.

Following my time at Duchesne, I attended Missouri State University in Springfield, graduating in 2012 with a degree in elementary education and an emphasis in middle school mathematics. I spent two years serving the Francis Howell and Clayton School Districts as an Interventionist/Teaching Assistant and also worked with kids at YMCA Camp Lake-wood, an overnight summer camp in Potosi, Missouri. Currently, I'm a 4th grade teacher at Mason Ridge Elementary in the Parkway School District.