



Growing up, my parents modeled the importance of service. I witnessed many acts of love through their volunteer work. Most of us are privileged enough to decide on how we spend our time and for me, making sure I include time to volunteer in some capacity to my community is important. When I volunteer, it makes me feel connected to those in my community, reduces my stress level, and helps me stay positive. I am an introvert so socializing with others often feels stressful and when I volunteer it gives me a purpose and removes that stress. Sometimes that stress relief looks like helping children make bubbles, loading a trailer or knocking down walls.



Marlene takes a sledgehammer to a wall in the Westlawn building at Goshen College. A group from Center for Healing & Hope spent a few hours doing demolition work with Mennonite Disaster Services to help with the nursing and public health expansion.

For the past several years, I have had the privilege of volunteering at CHH's Festival of Hope. It is so fun to see children and their families enjoy the festivities and activities. This year I also helped pack backpacks and hand them out at the Muchas Mochilas event. I was amazed at the number of volunteers that came together to put together over 300 backpacks. The staff at CHH are talented individuals to be able to coordinate and work with the volunteers to provide a meaningful experience for everyone. It was a joy to see children excited about getting a full backpack.



Marlene works with a team of staff and volunteers to pack and hand out 300 backpacks filled with school supplies at Center for Healing & Hope's Muchas Mochilas event.

My employer's motto is "Culture for Service". It's a call to action, a call to learn and a reminder how my Christian values affect the work that I do. I hope to continue to find ways to live into a culture for service in my life.

Tune in next month for another story!

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