

## Service Learning

### Kentwood Public Schools and Kent Intermediate School District - Success Story – Michele Capio

Learn and Serve initiatives impacted Michele Capio in high school and college. Her service learning experiences helped shape her career. In high school (1993-1997), Michele joined the Youth Service Organization at East Kentwood High School, Kentwood, Michigan. The district was a Learn and Serve Michigan grantee. Michele organized clothing drives, rebuilt homes in St. Louis, Missouri and coordinated after school mentoring programs for elementary students.

Although still in high school, Ms. Capio assumed a service learning leadership position at the county level with the Kent Intermediate School District, a Learn and Serve Michigan Grantee. Michele coordinated county-wide youth service summits, helped train classroom teachers in academic service learning and presented at regional and state conferences.



**Michele Capio with her daughter**

As a college student at Central Michigan University, Michele was President of a student community service organization and pledged in the Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity. She worked for the United Way coordinating service days, volunteer opportunities and fund raising events. In addition, Michele worked for Kent Intermediate School District as a Learn and Serve intern. She instructed teachers and students in the essential elements and benefits of service learning.

At Washington University, St Louis, Missouri, as a graduate student, Michele participated as an intern at the Student Service Center. She served as an advisor to college students participating in service learning experiences.

After graduation, Michele was employed as a Coordinator of Community Service at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. Later, she volunteered as a parent counselor and fund developer for Lydia's House, a domestic violence prevention program. In addition, Ms. Capio volunteered with Big Brothers – Big Sisters of America.

Currently, Michele lives with her daughter in Oak Park, Illinois. She is employed as a Technical Assistance Coordinator for the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Network. Michele serves as a trainer for school districts in the Northern Illinois, working to build a continuum of support for educators and schools.

Service learning experiences in high school, college and in her career helped Michele Capio develop leadership and employability skills. In 2011, Michele Capio stated, "Service learning and service work in general had a most positive impact on my life!" She models a life of service for others. Learn and Serve initiatives continue to influence Ms. Capio as an outstanding professional educator and trainer.