

Service Learning

Grand Rapids Public Schools & Kent Intermediate School District - Success Story – My Lien

Learn and Serve initiatives in high school and college impacted My Lien. Service learning experiences helped shape her career and commitment to service. In 1980, My Lien's family immigrated to the United States from Vietnam. My Lien's parents, who did not speak English, instilled the values of helping others and working hard to pursue one's goals. My Lien attended Union High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1993 to 1997. Grand Rapids Public Schools was a Learn and Serve Michigan grantee. My Lien was active in student government and a member of the Student Council, promoting academic service learning and volunteer activities in her school. She served as a student representative to the Kent County Board of Commissioners and was a member of the Michigan Youth Progressive Action Council. Her Advisor was Angelia Salas, who is a current staff member with the Michigan Community Service Commission.



During high school, My Lien provided leadership with the Kent Intermediate School District, a Learn and Serve Michigan Grantee. She coordinated county-wide youth service summits, helped train classroom teachers in academic service learning and presented at regional and state conferences.

As a college student My Lien was active with the Student Volunteer Bureau. She led local community service projects, including initiatives with Habitat for Humanity. In 2001, My Lien graduated with a BA in Psychology from Albion College. Her commitment to serve helped guide her choice of a career. In 2006, My Lien graduated with a Ph.D. in School Psychology from Michigan State University. She completed two postdoctoral fellowships:

- (1) Child Clinical Psychology, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, New York
- (2) Pediatric/Chronic Illness Psychology University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Today, My Lien is a Licensed Psychologist and a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. In 2008, after completing her professional training, My Lien returned Grand Rapids, Michigan. She manages her own private practice, Innovative Counseling Solutions:

<http://www.innovativecounselingsolutions.com/Our-Therapists.html>

After returning to Grand Rapids, My Lien Ph.D. contacted Kent Intermediate School District, a Learn & Service Michigan and Learn & Serve America grantee. My Lien said, "I gained so much from my involvement in service learning experiences. I want to give back to the community." My Lien is a member of the Kent Intermediate School District, Learn and Serve America Advisory Committee and the Healthy, Safe – Drug Free Schools Coalition. She volunteers with Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids. My Lien frequently provides free educational seminars to the community on issues of childhood mental health. My Lien stated, "I benefited from my service learning experiences, now, as an adult and professional, I am thankful for the opportunity to give back to the Greater Grand Rapids community."

Service learning experiences in high school, college and in her career helped My Lien develop leadership and professional skills. She models a life of service for others. Learn and Serve initiatives continue to influence and motivate My Lien, Ph.D. as an outstanding Licensed Psychologist.