

In her own words . . . Christine Sweeney on volunteering at DHUMP

My introduction to DHUMP

I'm Mom to Matthew, a 3-year-old who is going into his 3rd year at DHUMP. I enrolled Matthew at 18 months into the Discovery class for just 2 days a week. After a short adjustment period, Matthew loved going to school and I was thrilled to have those 2 mornings a week alone!

I was fortunate to be directed to DHUMP by my great friend, Marti Wolf, a recent "graduate." Marti's 2 girls grew up at DHUMP and she couldn't say enough wonderful things about the school, the teachers and the friends she made here. Marti quickly encouraged me to get involved in the school by volunteering for The Bloomin' Bash. (The Bloomin' Bash is DHUMP's largest fundraiser of the year. We set a goal of between \$35,000-\$40,000 in funds raised for school operations, teacher bonuses, our scholarship fund and more.) The reason for her enthusiasm about me volunteering was soon clear . . . she had me slated for taking over her role as Volunteer Chair for Bash.

I attended my first "Chairs of Bash" meeting in October of 2009. This "official meeting" was a wonderful gathering of DHUMP volunteers sharing food, wine & stories about years past with some important planning thrown in for the 2010 Bloomin' Bash. I loved connecting with philanthropic-minded parents and also feeling like I was an important part of helping DHUMP.

Do a good job, but not too good of a job . . .

During the planning for the 2010 Bash I wasn't working and offered to also help with Procurement for Bash. I became involved with helping to procure silent auctions items that allow us to raise those important funds for the school. This is when I began working more closely with Jen Tipping, our PTC President, and Lisa Milko, our Bloomin' Bash Chair. This was also when I was recruited to be the Procurement Chair for Bash 2011. :-)

Community, connections & support

Through volunteering at DHUMP I have met amazing parents and developed wonderful relationships and friendships. Not only do I know that I'm helping the school, but I'm also really helping myself. I have this awesome network of families who help & support each other and I feel a real connection to the DHUMP community. These connections have even helped my family as we have launched new business ventures over the last two years.

Just a little bit of time

At the core of many successful non-profit organizations is the belief that if a lot of people give a little time, much can be accomplished. The same holds true at DHUMP. Don't assume that volunteering has to be a huge commitment. There are so many important things to be done that don't require a lot of time but make a big impact. Please join the PTC and volunteer for a committee. The rewards are priceless.