

I have been a volunteer for Horizon for 21 consecutive years. I began my journey when I was just 15 years old. This past year had me really thinking about what I had accomplished. I have spent most of my career as a general education teacher. After realizing how much camp has fulfilled my acts of giving toward others, I simply thought, "Why don't I do this for my career?" While attending college in the early 2000's, I never had an inkling about teaching special education. After attending camp during my post-college years, I knew, without a doubt, that I wanted to teach special education. I knew I wanted to put my volunteering experience to further use. Why not teach special education? Do what I love, but more! In 2014, I finally jumped on the graduate school train, and in 2016 received my master's in special education. In 2022, I made another bold decision in life to go for another master's degree. I am currently in school to advance my career (again) and I thank the Horizon experience for planting the idea in my head. Camp has become my eye-opening life moment and has directed my career path. It takes a very special, dedicated, "think outside of the box" person to consistently commit to this annual one-week camp. Horizon has helped me grow as a person. As someone with high levels of anxiety, I have proven to myself to be a team player, with great skills of being innovative, levelheaded, and adaptive to the diverse needs of this population. I have exercised great patience, wisdom, and remarkable leadership ability in working with and for each group of people. I currently think on my feet and am a natural leader. As camp Team Leader for Horizon, I remain one with a strong work ethic and solid moral fiber. I continue to proceed with quick thinking, great sense of humor, and tenacity to complete a program/project even when difficult. I look back at Horizon's mission, and I think, "Wow, this is my mission in life." Though I have been volunteering for Association of Horizon for 21 summers, this past year has brought me to where I am this year, as a special educator and soon-to-be administrator. Horizon, thank you for bringing me on my journey of self-discovery! The Horizon Hope Grant will help with my textbook costs.