



“Experience is the child of thought, and thought is the child of action.”
Benjamin Disraeli

School is out for summer! My time ended with Baranof Elementary – at least as their specified AmeriCorps Volunteer; I will be back next year volunteering my own time in various kindergarten and first grade rooms. I enjoyed getting to know those little rascals and sure will miss them!

Sitka is so special: though the year has ended I know I will continue to see these children throughout town – I constantly hear the ringing phrase “Miss Amanda! Miss Amanda!” as I wander about town. The other day I was unloading my groceries from Sea Mart into the trunk of my friend’s car and I hear faintly, “Hi, Miss Amanda!” I react quickly, spinning around to see a frantic hand waving from behind a dark tinted van window. All I can tell is this is a boy and by process of elimination, a kindergartener or first grader. “Hi, how are you?” I yelled back. A little anxious as I can not tell who this little person is. I go back to unloading my groceries and hear, “Miss Amanda, do you know who I am?” panic strung across my face, I slowly turn around and say, “No, I’m sorry, I can’t see you.” The little boy giggles and explains he knew I couldn’t tell because the van windows are dark. (Relief. Whew.) “It’s so-and-so!” And we continued to have a delightful conversation about summer vacation. As I said goodbye and went on my way he exclaimed, “Have a good summer Miss Amanda!”

I think a smile was plastered to my face for the next hour. It made me feel like I definitely impacted these little lives and at least became some kind of role model for them – they liked me and that was the goal! It's so nice to be appreciated; even on the *smallest* of scales.

In BHV news, I am pleased to introduce Maggie Gallin, our new Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator. I am so excited for her to be here! I personally have already gained so much from her knowledge and expertise – she is such an inspiration and an amazing addition to our team. Please feel free to stop by the office to introduce yourself and meet our newest team member!

In other news:

1. Friday, June 17, BHV is hosting the reception for the Sitka Summer Music Festival. We will be providing cookies and punch. If you would like to donate cookies for the event, please contact BHV at 747-4600.
2. BH volunteers are being offered free tickets to all Sitka Summer Music Festivals! Share a memorable occasion with your care-receiver; bring them out on the town to enjoy some music and have a fabulous time! When you arrive explain you are a volunteer through BHV; a set number of tickets are set-aside for non-profits to utilize for each weekend. If you are planning on coming in a large group, please contact BHV for further instruction.
3. Another Caregiver Education and Support Service meeting will be upon us very soon. The date and topic is yet to be determined. Please call BHV for further information.

Enjoy your weekend,

Amanda

P.S. Like to bike? This Sunday at 9am, fellow cyclist enthusiasts will be meeting in the Sea Mart parking lot to complete the Tour de Sitka! Come enjoy a scenic bike ride, rain or shine and enjoy a hot, steamy breakfast at the airport immediately following!

Amanda Taylor
Brave Heart Volunteers
AmeriCorps Volunteer

Phone: 747-4600

Email: amanda@braveheartvolunteers.org

Please send donations to: Brave Heart Volunteers
P.O. Box 6336
Sitka, AK 99835

