

Volunteerism is way of life for MNCPA public service award recipient

As a young child, Katie Imholte, MNCPA's 2011 Public Service Award winner, learned the significant impact she could make on people's lives when she tagged along with her parents as they volunteered at a St. Cloud-area food shelf and at nursing homes. In fact, in order to make her experience unique, she often brought her violin and performed for the home's residents.

Today, that love for serving others continues. Last year, Imholte logged almost 500 hours of volunteerism — that's on top of her full-time position as a recruiting manager at SALO Search.

"For anyone else, balancing work and a very involved philanthropic schedule would be an extremely difficult task, but for Katie, it is a true labor of love," said SALO Director of Operations and Administration Craig Dexheimer.

In recent years, Imholte's volunteerism has taken her around the globe to countries that include Guatemala and India. While in India with Global Volunteers, she taught English to young children, played with children in



Imholte with her goddaughter while volunteering with Global Volunteers in India.

“Like many volunteers, Imholte feels volunteerism has made her a more complete person.”



Katie Imholte in March 2010 with kindergartners at St Joseph's School in Chennai, where she taught conversational English during her first trip to India with Global Volunteers.

orphanages and built a new dormitory for orphans. She even became a godmother for an orphan girl. Today, they still stay in touch through phone conversations, letters and return visits.

Like many volunteers, she feels volunteerism has made her a more complete person. "Traveling to India has helped me develop a more global perspective," said Imholte.

Stateside, she shares her time, talents and leadership attributes with Torch Community, an organization that builds connections between young professionals and local community partners. And, through another not-for-profit, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Imholte spends time with her "little sister" every other week.

"We've had some emotional conversations about life," said Imholte. This year, she and her little sister worked together on goal setting.

Among Imholte's personal goals, Katie promised to cook more, complete an Ironman competition and learn Spanish. Imholte reports she's already accomplished the first two goals.

Her long list of volunteerism also includes service to her profession. Since joining the MNCPA six years ago, she has been an active member of the MNCPA Young Professionals Group, now serving as chair of the YPG Leadership Committee. She also chairs the 2012 Management and Business Advisors Conference Task Force and participates on the Leadership Cabinet.

As Dexheimer put it, "Volunteerism isn't something Katie does because it looks good on a resume. It's a way of life and a fundamental part of her DNA. Katie is truly someone who has earned this recognition from the MNCPA Society."

Read more about MNCPA members who are making a difference through volunteerism, p. 12.