

Luncheon Honors Volunteer

<http://ivytechnorthcentral.wordpress.com/2012/09/05/luncheon-honors-volunteer/>

October 9, 2012

Titus Jones thought the event he was asked to attend through his internship at Logan's Sonya Ansari Center for Autism was "just a luncheon."

He didn't realize this luncheon was arranged specifically to present him with Logan's Sally Hamburg Award for outstanding volunteerism, for an individual who has gone above and beyond expectations.

In other words, what Titus thought was an ordinary luncheon was really a celebration of his service at the Ansari Center.

Titus, a human services student at Ivy Tech Community College, completed a volunteer internship at the Ansari Center this summer, where he worked with the children and in the office.

According to Nichole Maguire, coordinator of volunteers at Logan, Titus more than earned the award because he is "the type of intern who is happy to help wherever and however he is needed. Whether he is labeling envelopes for a mailing or helping in one of our summer camps, his cooperative and cheerful spirit really makes him a pleasure to have around Logan, whatever volunteer 'hat' he is wearing."

Right out of high school, Titus took a job at a factory, where he made enough money to support himself and his growing family, but he was not passionate about his work. He knew he could do "so much more than working at a factory."

Titus discovered that he found fulfillment through volunteer experiences as a coach at Southside Little League, at Hope Ministries and helping build a rain garden at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center.

He began taking classes at Ivy Tech in the fall of 2011, and he knew from his coaching experiences that he related well to children. He also wants to be a positive influence, particularly for young black males.

"I've been in that environment. I was raised in that environment," Titus says. "So I know firsthand all the ways young people can be lured into trouble."

When he volunteered at Hope Ministries, Titus saw many people he knew from his childhood neighborhood, from high school, and from his current neighborhood. Seeing people he knew who were in need of help resonated with him and he felt there was so much more that could be done for the people he was working with.



Nichole Maguire, left, coordinator of volunteers at Logan, presents Titus Jones with Logan's Sally Hamburg Award for outstanding volunteerism at a luncheon in his honor. Titus is a Human Services student at Ivy Tech.

Titus says he's been lucky to always have his mother, grandmother and pastor "in his ear," asking him what was he going to do with his life. And, now, Titus has an answer. He wants to be the catalyst for change in children's lives and show them an alternative to a life on the streets.

After graduating from Ivy Tech, Titus plans to continue his education, with the end goal of working as a counselor at the Juvenile Justice Center, to reach young people when they can still turn their lives around.

"All it takes is somebody to relate to these kids. I can be that person," Titus says.

Like this:

Be the first to like this.

Tags : [Adrienne Latson](#), [Ansari Center for Autism](#), [Hope Ministries](#), [Human Services](#), [ivy tech community college](#), [Logan Center](#), [Martin Luther King Recreation Center](#), [Nichole Maguire](#), [Sally Hamburg Award](#), [Titus Jones](#), [volunteer](#)