

- “Everyone, regardless of age, can make a difference in this world. Even a small act of kindness can touch the lives of others. You have time and talent to share.” Jill Gordon, a former **Sam H. Jones Community Service Scholar**, would like to instill this message in youth about their ability to impact others through service.

How did Jill come to believe this message? It began in 1997 at IUPUI and in what was then called the Community Service Scholarship Program while she was pursuing her bachelor's degree in anthropology and museum studies, followed by a master's degree in museum studies and nonprofit management.

Jill was a resident of northwest Indiana most of her life prior to her move to Indianapolis in 1997, and the Community Service Scholarship Program provided valuable opportunities to Jill through participation in volunteer programs at **Head Start**, the **Children's Museum of Indianapolis**, the **Eiteljorg Museum**, and **Freetown Village**. She describes her lasting impression of the scholarship program as “a great way to connect college students to the rewards and benefits of service learning while providing an opportunity for them to gain valuable work experience and develop a lifelong passion for serving and giving.”

Jill currently serves as the program director for the **Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana (YPII)** through the **Indiana Grantmakers Alliance**, where she continues to incorporate the excellent organizational, collaboration, and networking skills that she learned during her time as a service scholar.

A large part of Jill's job is supporting, sustaining, and promoting youth philanthropy programs around the state of Indiana by working with the adults who lead those programs. She encourages other civic-minded students and professionals to **connect with her** on opportunities to serve as guest speakers during YPII's training sessions and to highlight the service of IUPUI students in their newsletter.

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