

## **A Gift to Share**

Herron student Katie Chattin is inspired by art, and her community.

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### **Transcript**

[K. Chattin] I really enjoy, kind of learning when I work, so civic engagement, I feel like, is a really good way to have a hands-on experience and further my education at the same time that I'm helping out in my community. That is a really huge motivator for me. I really enjoy the opportunity to learn on the job, but also just giving back to my community. I take pride in where I live and enjoy the opportunity to give back.

I would say just go for it. Find a place to start. My first, really, active involvement I was recommended from someone that I know. I just thought, "Why not? Let's do it."

From there I met other people, and I was able to get involved elsewhere in the community. Also, just getting to know just different places throughout the community, places I might want to work. Once I had worked with a few other organizations, I was a lot more, I guess, it was a lot more encouraging for me to apply. I wasn't quite as hesitant because I knew a little bit more of what I was going to be expected to do.

So just try. Get your feet wet, because you'll never know what you'll run into, and there's a lot of places you can go once you're in, started somewhere else.

[L. Goodine] Katie is a very serious, young woman, and she is serious about her volunteerism. She is serious about her art-making. She is serious about her future, and she's thought about all of these and how they can work together to create a community that celebrate the arts, a community that supports the arts, and a community that can benefit then again, from those arts.

What's unique about the Herron School of Art and the Herron art student is these students come to Herron as art students, and they know that they're not guaranteed a job. They know that in society they might even be marginalized. But they're so brave that they're willing to come into a fine arts program and create to make things beautiful to make the world better, so that's what so exciting.

I think of it as a gift. The artist has a gift to share with their community. Herron supports that idea through all their civic engagement. In each of our photo classes we practice citizenship as part of our curriculum. We try to give back so that we have at least two or three weeks encompassing and utilizing our skill sets that we know and have been taught as artists and bring that back to the community, again, to make it a better place.