



Alumni Spotlight

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Mark Martinez (left), Ebony Barney and John Patton helped boost Spotlight 2011 Monday at Clowes Hall. The annual event raises money for the Indiana AIDS Fund.

I learned as an IUPUI student that service was the key that provided me a foundation for making an impact both personally and as a leader, ultimately influencing others to do the same. Through Sam H. Jones Scholarship Programs, internships, and classroom civic engagement requirements I was given the opportunity to understand service in a variety of ways. Through the guidance of campus staff, it was suggested I explore AmeriCorps. For the past two years, I have served in AmeriCorps, locally through the Indiana AIDS Fund, doing everything from HIV testing and counseling to organizing a youth conference for local IPS students. The pay was lousy but the experience was priceless. Nothing could ever possibly compare to the impact the IUPUI Center for Service and Learning had on me nor the impact I was blessed to be able to bestow on my community.

Looking forward, I have recently accepted a position in Chicago, Illinois as an instructor helping youth to transition into the health care field and to be better prepared with computer skills. I have finally identified my final decision on a master's program, and am currently exploring Health focused MSW options in the Chicago area. I take great pride in knowing that every step I make will have real impact. This mission became fine tuned at IUPUI and I will carry on those values no matter where I go, or what I end up doing.