

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Hazel Murray, Volunteer



When not at Camp I am an: Artist Living in NYC and Edwards, CO with my husband Matthew

Volunteer at Roundup River Ranch since: 2012

How would you describe camp in three words? Professional, Joyous, Inspirational

In what volunteer role(s) do you serve at Roundup River Ranch? I am an Art Teacher working mostly in the Art Yurt on Family Weekends- teaching the whole family unit. I typically bring still lifes for them to paint (flowers, objects, dolls, etc.) and set up a different one on each of the four tables. I bring the art supplies...give them about 15 minutes of instruction ... and then they paint.

What motivates you to volunteer at Roundup River Ranch? In the past, I volunteered for 6 years at St. Anthony's High School- an inner city school in

Jersey City, NY- where I began an art program because the school had no money for arts or music. The school is a wonderful story... The #1, at times, basketball team in the nation- that didn't even have their own basketball court. I got much joy teaching there- so when I moved to CO and only spent part time on the East Coast, I wanted to find an opportunity to do something in Colorado.

What do you like to do when you are not volunteering? I still take art classes- sometimes traveling to workshops. I paint and love going to museums and studying art. I love cooking and entertaining with my husband, Matthew. I also take culinary classes and enjoy spending time with my 3 grandchildren and friends.

What is your favorite memory as a Roundup River Ranch volunteer? More than one but these two meant much to me:
1.) I bring art books and speak about different artists to inspire the family. One artist, Chuck Close, is one of America's most famous artists. He paints from a wheelchair and one of his arms has limited ability. One of the children also was in a wheel chair with an arm disability who has much talent and potential . I feel that she was inspired by Chuck's story.
2.) I am overwhelmed by how many of the parents love doing the art, how much they care about their paintings.

How has your Roundup River Ranch volunteer experience impacted your life? Volunteering at Roundup River Ranch is a gift to the volunteer, whatever I have given has come back to me so many times over. The children and families teach me so much - especially about what is important in life and what is not.

Why would you encourage others to volunteer at camp? You will be happy to be a part of Roundup River Ranch because it is so special and you can make a difference.

What would you like to say to those who may be interested in volunteering at Roundup River Ranch? You all have a certain talent- be it teaching, listening, organizing, or just being present. There is an important role you can play. Go ahead and see camp and you will be affected in a beautiful way.

Is there anything else that you would like to add? You don't have to travel far to make a difference. This experience may be one of the best in your life.