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Senior spends time productively

By By
 The Times-Union,

Sanitra Livingston is only 17 but has logged more than 250 volunteer hours in the last three years.

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In the summer of 2004, she participated in Volunteer Jacksonville's Points of Light Youth Leadership Training program. She returned the following summer as a training assistant while participating in another youth leadership program, the National Conference of Community and Justice's (now called OneJax) Metrotown.

OneJax is a nonprofit human relations organization that promotes understanding and respect among all races. The Metrotown Institute promotes respect and understanding among all people.

Sanitra has also been involved in Journey Into Womanhood, a program of Empowerment Resources Inc., for three years.

"While most teens are trying to work part time and hang out at the mall with friends, Sanitra is researching quality extracurricular activities with an educational focus, or she is searching for her next volunteer opportunity," said founder and Executive Director Elexia Coleman-Moss. "Sanitra is very mature for her age and carries herself with class and dignity."

Sanitra lives on the Westside and has volunteered in many different areas of the city. At the Children's Home Society she was an activity assistant and helped with reading development.

With HUGGS (Helping Underprivileged Girls and Guys Succeed) she helped children with homework while mentoring and providing emotional support.

JIW is a Jacksonville Jaguars Honors Site, so Sanitra was able to apply to be in the Jaguar Foundation/UNF Community Scholars Program and has been active in it her senior year.

She has been involved with the yearbook for the past two school years.

The Westside senior has a GPA of 3.5 and plans to attend a college with an exceptional psychology department.

World Relief volunteer

Anna Koziol volunteers for the nonprofit agency World Relief, preparing immigration forms for refugees from all over the world.

That includes affidavits of relationship for family reunification, green cards, address changes and applications for citizenship. She communicates with government organizations and refugee processing centers.

Koziol, a native of Estonia, not only speaks English and Estonian, but also Russian. She has been especially helpful to the Russian community.

"Anna's work contributes positively to the refugees blending into the community," said Sharon Svihel of World Relief.

Koziol loves to read, watch movies and go to the park. She lives with her husband and teenage daughter at the Beaches.

Motivational speaker

Local resident Cheryl Chatman became legally blind from multiple sclerosis 17 years ago and has become a well-known inspirational national speaker on behalf of MS.

This month she appeared on Montel Williams' nationally syndicated television show along with her husband, Len, and sons Jared and Len Jr. Williams was diagnosed with MS in 1999.

Chatman and her husband not only have authored a book titled The Art of Living with MS, they have created motivational seminars for other MS patients and those who love and support them.

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Chatman is a past recipient of Volunteer Jacksonville's Willing and Able award, presented to a volunteer with a disability who has given outstanding service to the community. Congratulations to this most inspirational woman for her achievements.

Volunteer Jacksonville serves more than 300 nonprofit organizations in Northeast Florida and provides support and assistance to individuals interested in volunteering their time to serve their community. For more information, call 332-6767 or e-mail vj@volunteer-jacksonville.org.

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