

Final Service Reflection – Jessie Ferraro

As the school garden began to ripen I feel like I got to experience the fullness of what it could mean to be an Americorps member. I spent time with three summer school classes planting, mulching, weeding and painting to make the garden a more beautiful and productive space. We had scavenger hunts – locating edible plants, both cultivated and wild. We painted a mural that my roommate helped me build into a table for the garden space. Teachers helped out at the garden lessons and commented on how nice it was to have kids outside learning how to grow food. One parent who has a farm of her own brought in some baby chicks for the students to interact with. I was impressed with how many questions the children had about farming and how curious and engaged they were.

I realized what the most valuable part of service was to me – working with other people – other teachers, other community members and other students who were as excited and enthusiastic to work on the school garden as I was. I am grateful to have found a space and community to share my passion for growing local food and building connections that nurture each other and the earth. To me, that's what Americorps Farm to School is all about.





