



# Thanks for having our back.



## Your support means we can have theirs.

What does your investment in City Year do for the students of Milwaukee? Your support enables City Year corps members to say “I’ve got your back” to the students in Milwaukee who they serve each and every day. As near-peers, our corps members are not only serving as role models, but are also making a significant impact on student achievement. During the 2012-2013 school year, 73% of students tutored by a City Year corps member improved their score on their English Language Arts assessments by the end of the year.

To illustrate this impact, let me share a story about one of our corps members and her student:

Early in the school year, when Ren received the list of students she would be working with, she saw one name in particular that stuck out to her: Netta.\* Ren had been working in Netta’s classroom since the beginning of the year, but for some reason Netta had not warmed up to Ren and was sometimes dismissive. Ren still made every attempt to connect with Netta, but she knew that she could not force a relationship.

When Ren’s City Year program manager led a team reflection activity that required her to put a sticker on the back of her nametag with the name of a student who she wanted to work more with and get to know better, she quickly picked Netta.

One day outside at recess, Ren approached Netta and her friends to check in for the day. Netta got upset and tried to encourage everyone to move to a different part of the playground with her, away from Ren. Her friends didn’t listen, so Netta reached out and grabbed Ren’s nametag out of frustration. That’s when she noticed her name and asked why Ren had her name on the nametag.



“I have your name on my nametag because I want to work with you and get to know you. Each corps member picked one student they wanted to get closer to and I picked you.”



Netta’s eyes immediately lit up and Ren could tell that she had finally made the connection she had been attempting to make over the past couple of months. After that, Netta started participating more in class and started sharing more with Ren. Paired with Ren’s City Year tutoring strategies, Netta’s test scores reflected this positive change in behavior. Her test scores in both English and math increased dramatically, particularly in math which she began doubling her scores. Without this individualized tutoring and support from Ren, this improvement might not have been possible.

In addition to Netta’s trust, Ren gained new perspective. The nametag became a daily reminder that everybody is a work in progress and that things take time, “I just didn’t think I’d get through to her and I did.”

This is just one of many inspiring stories that continually come out of City Year’s Whole School Whole Child program. This year we have 73 corps members, serving in eight underperforming schools across Milwaukee, developing relationships with students just like Netta, who need additional support in attendance, behavior, math and English. As tutors, mentors, and role models, corps members impact more than 6,500 students, providing the support they need. Corps members truly “have their back” by helping them stay in school and on track to graduate.

At City Year Milwaukee we rely on generous contributions from donors like you to support the work of our corps members. Your gift, at any level, will have a direct impact on the students we serve. As we look to increase our impact by placing more corps members in more schools, we need to raise more funds than ever before to support our work. Please consider making your gift today.

Thank you for your support of the students and schools we serve.

Yours in service,

Jason M. Holton  
Executive Director & Vice President  
City Year Milwaukee

\*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the student.