

The growth of my time volunteering made me find a family I wished for in strangers. My local church runs a live stream during Sundays and Wednesdays nights. I started helping on Monday afternoons, Mondays are the days of practice. I was first put in studying the hardware and software of the cameras. My experience in studying these things was in short very interesting, I picked everything up rather quickly. Spending so much time at church with people in my team created a sort of a family between us. The start of Sunday morning we started with going over each individual position and who would do which camera. We have three sections: we break down each service, the worship part. Which is where the singers and musicians go up and start their music set list. The worship sections usually last an hour, during this hour we camera operators get shots of people jumping and dancing. The stage camera operators get instrument solos or the main singers getting really into the song. This all controls from the top room in the back called the "media room". There the director has all screens from each camera on his computer and switches between each screen selecting which go live and which need improvement. This creates an atmosphere of trust, communication, and mutual respect.

Knowing that I had such close friends around me all the time made me feel excited each day. I knew I had to come in to practice or volunteer for Sundays and Wednesdays. My demeanor changed over the course of my hours I put in. I became more open with my team. I learned to talk with them with more confidence. The director gives notice to your shot but if it's not to his or hers satisfaction they skip you and you have to find another shot. You know how to take criticism and that's something I struggled with. This really gave me a life lesson and gave me something to improve on.

My overall experience in this church was more than meaningful, this volunteering I took years back not only gave me a career path but also a family. I've learned patience, Criticism, communication, collaboration, and best of all I grew closer to my religion. This volunteering service is exceptional for any student looking to make a difference and a friend in their life. You learn everything in the film and media industry. It gives you first hand experience of almost any camera equipment you want to learn any software you wish to try. I learned it through this volunteering service, through Center vida church.