



Architect Helps Students Envision Their Dreams



For the past four years, Kendra Guiffré has been progressing in her volunteer journey with Mountaintop Montessori school. She began helping in her daughter's preschool classroom, and then as a driver for other students' trips off campus to extend their learning beyond the classroom.


Guiffré, an architect, began volunteering as a mentor in the middle school's week-long internship program for students, and was surprised by how many were interested in architecture. As a result, she began offering a mini design camp as an item at the school's annual spring auction. Parents bid on the opportunity for two students to spend three days with Guiffré in her company Blueply Design's studio, drawing and completing a model of their dream house.

Guiffré also moved beyond the classroom to focus on the wider campus as the co-chair of the school's Buildings and Grounds committee, where they were tasked with "thinking about how a school grows over time," in order to update the master plan for the campus. While working with focus groups of students — who were given a site plan and asked to write their comments — she was struck by how they focused just as much on the space between buildings as on the buildings themselves. "Volunteering has certainly let me share in what makes this such a magical place for my kids," says Guiffré.



For more information about Mountaintop Montessori, visit mountaintopmontessori.org



Kim is the Vice President of Marketing & Communications at the United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area. 

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