

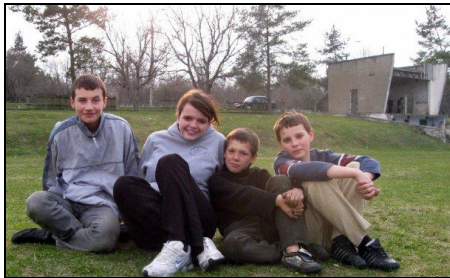


## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### Shannon Cagney – A Life of Service

Foundation Coordinator, World Gastroenterology Organisation

Student, Master of Arts in Public Service with a Non-Profit Leadership Specialization



Shannon with her three best friends while she was serving in the Peace Corps in the village of Corlăteni, Republic of Moldova.

“Serving others is not simply something I do, rather it is at the very core of who I am,” says Shannon. “I have truly been blessed with many service opportunities that have enriched my life and inspired lifelong relationships.”

While Shannon was an undergraduate student at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, she volunteered with the Big Brother Big Sister organization. In addition, Shannon was selected to serve as an English teacher in Lviv, Ukraine at the Catholic University of Ukraine’s annual English Summer School. The experience of working with the genuine and

loving Ukrainian people sparked Shannon’s interest in Eastern Europe and serving in the Peace Corps. After graduation, she joined the Peace Corps during the summer of 2008 and served as an English teacher/community development volunteer in the Republic of Moldova for 29 months.

When she returned to the States, Shannon was offered a job as a Title 1 school teacher at Catapult Learning in Milwaukee. Inspired by her service experience and her grandfather’s passion for social justice, Shannon decided that she would like to move from a career in education to one in the non-profit sector. She is following in her grandfather’s footsteps and attending Marquette University, with a goal to earn a master’s degree in Public Service with a Non-Profit Leadership specialization within two years.

Currently, Shannon works full-time as a Foundation Coordinator for the World Gastroenterology Organisation, assisting with initiatives to provide digestive health education, services and equipment to developing countries around the world. She also serves as the graduate student representative on Marquette University’s Committee on Teaching. “My ultimate career goal is to work for the Peace Corps or another similar international grassroots organization,” Shannon says.

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### Ricky Bond – Taking the Lead

Contracting Officer and Manager of the Great Lakes Acquisition Center Construction Team,  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Bachelor of Science in Organization and Leadership '99



Ricky Bond (right) is recognized for 35 years of service in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs by Robert Beller, Milwaukee VA Medical Center Director.

“My degree from the College of Professional Studies has equipped me with the skill set and credibility to advance in my career and serve as an effective manager and leader,” says Ricky. One year after graduation, he was promoted to Senior Unlimited Contracting Officer in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2008, Ricky was promoted to his current position of manager of the Great Lakes Acquisition Center Construction Team.

In his current position, Ricky supervises 15 employees and is responsible for awarding and enforcing construction contracts for seven VA medical centers and 53 satellite clinics and offices throughout Illinois, Wisconsin and Iron Mountain, Michigan. His team is primarily responsible for the acquisition of construction, architecture and engineering services for VA projects, such as demolition and construction of property, air quality sampling, heating and air-conditioning upgrades, painting, plumbing upgrades, etc.

This past year, Ricky and his team were number one in the entire VA system and led the way in VA’s awarding of \$1,993,280,098 worth of non-reoccurring maintenance (NRM) construction contracts into the U.S. economy! His team contracted primarily with service-disabled, veteran-owned small business firms to rebuild and repair the VA physical plant infrastructure.

“Throughout the process of becoming VA World Champions, I used sports metaphors to capture the imagination of my team and get them excited about conquering the tremendous workloads assigned to us year after year,” comments Ricky. Using his leadership skills and knowledge, Ricky created an exhilarating work environment for his team that led to success. Congratulations to Ricky and his team on a championship year of productivity and public service!