

I started to work for PEACE, Inc. six years ago as an intern for Project Connection, which is located at the Emma L. Johnston Southside Family Resource Center. I worked with the children in the after-school program and summer youth program. Both programs gave me an opportunity to be a mentor by tutoring, introducing new activities, and having fun during the summer. One of the most memorable moments came from an autistic child in our summer program. We had gone as a group to the water park and the child began to go up and down the waterslide without assistance from his mother. In order to do that, he had to interact with the other adults and children. His mother was so excited because that was the first time her child had ever attempted to socialize with others.

It's always a good feeling to know that you can make a positive difference in a person's life.

From the internship, I became a full-time employee in the human resources department as an administration assistant. Along with my daily work, I have volunteered to serve on various committees such as the staff newsletter, diversity dinner, wellness fair, and Ed-Creational. I also help with EITC *You've Earned It!* during tax season. I'm happy that I've had the opportunity to work for PEACE, Inc. I feel the words at the bottom of my email say it all: T for Team, E for Everyone, A for Achieves, and M for More.

Toni Blackmon
PEACE, INC. EMPLOYEE

