

If You Need Some Help They're Here

What keeps Ashley going? Is it spirit? Is it friendship? No. These are both important, but the glue that holds Ashley together is teamwork. This is something that all the employees have learned. Lucky for us, they did. What would we do without them?

But working at Ashley is not all fun and games; just ask the bus drivers. They do a job that no one wants, and they do it well, but what do they really think? "I think the kids hate us because we make them mind. Driving the bus is a lot of responsibility. It's hard being responsible for all those kids," said Mr. Paul Bywater. Mr. Jerry Vanek had this to say: "You have to love kids to do this job. You have to treat all the kids equal. Show authority, but you must be fair."

Stan Plesko, too, sometimes feels unappreciated. "They all think I'm mean but I'm really not. I try to put up with as much as I can before I get them in trouble."

Ask any students who have been helped by Mrs. Arlene Johnson, adult tutor, and they'll tell you exactly how they feel, but how does she feel about working here?

"I like to work with people who want to work. Sometimes they just want to talk, so I always try to have a positive attitude." She doesn't feel that it is enough just to work with the kids. "Some people don't have any one to care about them, so I do. I try to be honest and listen. Sometimes I wonder if I'm appreciated, but if one person appreciated me, it makes it all worth it."

There is another group at Ashley we could not live without, and they are the secretaries. Can you imagine school without them? But how do they feel? "I enjoy the students very much. Having contact with them helps me watch them grow up," said Barb Haruska. "I think the most important thing I do for the school is to be able to do my job as well as possible, considering all the distractions I have everyday." She also added, "Times are definitely different since I was in high school. The pressures for young people are tremendous and they deserve all the support and encouragement we can give them."

DON'T BE FOOLED. Janet Cook and Barb Haruska may look relaxed, but being a secretary at Ashley is one tough job.

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