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A Leader for Christ

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A Leader for Christ

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

“It’s a lot of fun, and you get to create friendships and bonds with people in your church,” says Kelly Gabriel about working with her church family. The Andrews University student has been involved in church leadership for nearly six years. An obvious passion for Christian leadership has her involved in all sorts of witnessing groups at Andrews, and she claims it all started at her home church in Hinsdale, Illinois.



Brian Tagalog

Kelly Gabriel

As an eighth-grader, Kelly first became involved as a church youth leader. During the next four years, she was given more and more responsibilities, like planning events and working with Pathfinders. She especially enjoyed working with the other youth leaders who she had long looked up to. Kelly says these experiences were memorable and taught her the importance of teamwork.

“Being a part of the youth group gave me the opportunity to work with different people,” she recalls. “They talked with me and gave me a sense of belonging and church family. I love that.”

Kelly’s ministry didn’t stop there. During her senior year at Hinsdale Adventist Academy, Kelly and her classmates went to Barbados. The class spent a week on the island, volunteering in nursing homes and orphanages. It was Kelly’s first mission trip and one filled with hard work.

Experiences like these created a foundation for Kelly to grow as a leader, and it didn’t stop when she graduated from academy. Kelly continues to be involved in ministry alongside classmates at Andrews. Here, she is president of the junior class and plays percussion in the orchestra. She also plays a role in the Filipino club and sings in the Deliverance Mass Choir. Around campus, she also is known for her photography.

Kelly has learned the importance of being a Christian leader, and she encourages other young adults to take part in ministry. “When you get involved, especially in organizations within Andrews, you get a sense of community and acceptance,” she says. “Look for something to be a part of! Everyone has certain skills, gifts to give, that we can’t get from anyone else but you.”

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is majoring in physical therapy at Andrews University.

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