

Students Contributing to

COMMUNITY IMPACT

By Evan Dixon



Wills “Doc” Compere is a Role Model for Youth in the Community

Growing up is hard enough without the added difficulty of handicaps or disabilities. However, for Wills “Doc” Compere, who did not find out he was autistic till the age of 12, there is no excuse for not doing your best or trying your hardest.

“It didn’t bother me at all,” he said, recounting his experience growing up with autism.

He was nicknamed “Doc” because as a kid growing up, he wanted to become a doctor. However, he ultimately switched his focus to becoming a physician assistant.

A senior majoring in sociology with a minor in biology, Compere plans to go to massage therapy school in the fall before heading off to physician assistant school.

Compere is a Barry Service Corps member who uses his talent to be a role model and guide for youth in the community. He serves with Gang Alternative, a Miami-based not-for-profit organization whose mission is to keep at-risk youth from being lured into juvenile delinquency and gang violence.

A math and science tutor since 2015, he also mentors middle- and high-school students at a Gang Alternative community site.

“Since I’ve been there (at Gang Alternative),” Compere says, “multiple kids that I know have gotten accepted to colleges.”

You should see Doc in action. He really knows how to provide attention to the youth he serves. He would drift from table to table, giving each girl and boy the benefit of his time and talent.

“God gives ... people talents, and my talent is working with youth,” he says.

As a Barry Service Corps member, he benefits from the Federal Work-Study Community Service Program and receives a stipend. Although what he does is technically a job, he certainly does not do it for the money.

Program Coordinator Valerie Scott confirmed that Compere does some of the work on his own time – which means he does it without pay.

“He goes to Gang Alternative because of his dedication,” Scott said. “He just loves the idea of community service. He enjoys seeing these students do better in school because he was able to motivate and guide them.”

Wills “Doc” Compere has also served the community through Barry’s Alternative Breaks, a program managed by the Center for Community Service Initiatives (CCSI). He participated in Alternative Spring Break (ASB) 2016 in New Orleans and ASB 2017 in Texas.

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