

A message from Frank V. Sacco, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer

Good day,

Through our Community Youth Services programs, we have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children, their families and the community.

When a youth who receives our care then reaches out to help others, it warms our hearts and gives us hope. In this week's letter, we see the essence – and the future – of The Memorial Experience.

Thank you,



Dear Mr. Sacco,

I am a volunteer here at Memorial, but I started off as a camper four or five years ago when the Maximizing Out-of-School Time (MOST) program started. When I first walked into the camp I did not know what to think or if I was going to like it or not, but it has been a really good journey growing at Memorial.

I'm not going to lie. When I was a camper here I was a really bad kid. I did not want to do anything or listen to anyone, so the counselors had a rough time with me. But they stood by my side and changed me as a person.

They helped me stop being angry all the time and learn to be happy – that is what life is all about. Ms. Jamie, who is a Community Youth Services team leader, is the perfect person to look up to for that. You will never see a frown on her face or have a day go by when she is not singing and laughing. She is full of life and is a great leader.

My experience here was probably the best thing that has ever happened to me.

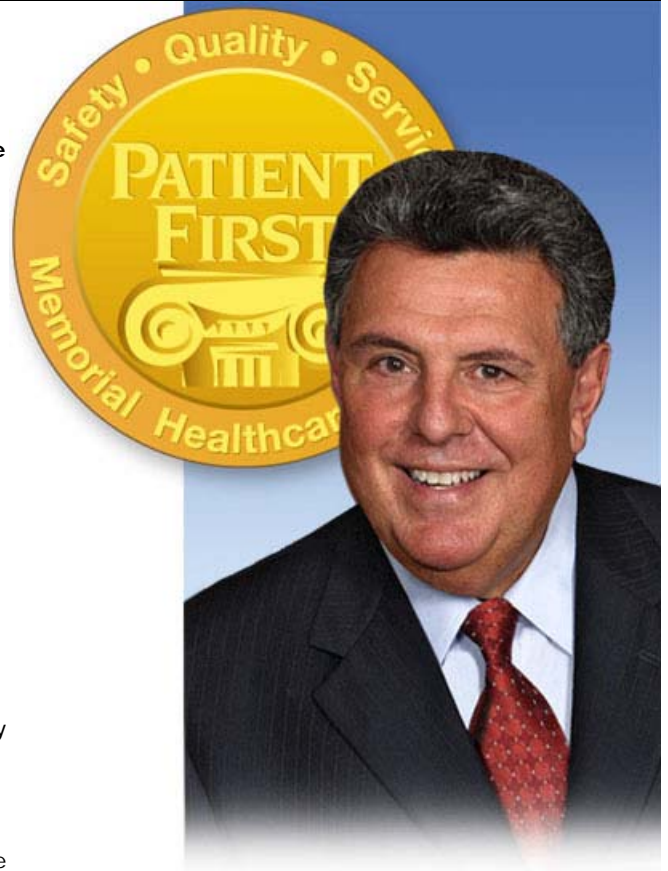
Every summer I came here to Memorial and it has been a blast! We go on field trips all the time and play games. We also learn reading and math so we do not lose what we were taught during the school year. And you always make lots and lots of friends. They do so much for us and it is all FREE! It can't get any better than that.

I really do appreciate everything the staff has done for me as a camper and as a person. To me everyone in Memorial is my family. They watched me grow up and taught me things that I can use growing up.

Now, I want to give back and that is why I am here volunteering. I'm going to help these kids in every way I can, just as the staff members of Memorial have done for me. I don't know what type of person I would be today without them. They changed my life and helped me have the best summers that a kid could ever dream about.

I love them all and thank them for molding me into the person I am today.

Krystina



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