Kellyann Walley

Although today was D.C Central Kitchen Day 2, today marked my first day at the kitchen. I’ve never volunteered nor have even been to a kitchen before, so I really had no idea what to expect. The only thing I knew to be sure of included having to chase Fee down the road just to keep him in sight and having some guy named Freddie refer to me as “baby girl”. Despite this uncertainty, I was really excited to get started at the kitchen.

When we first got to the kitchen, the workers were so excited to see us there to provide more help. Freddie quickly ran over to Cory, Keelin, Annie and I and had us help him figure out how many hamburgers we would soon be making. To my amazement, we totaled about 2,441 hamburgers. After our goal was determined, we quickly got to work. I ended up spending most of my time slicing tomatoes as well as cutting and collecting carrots. Afterwards I assisted with the fish and was designated as official saran-wrapper. Throughout the day, there was a high energy and intense vibe throughout the kitchen. Everyone was laughing and working hard, being certain to use all of our time advantageously. Before we left, we had to organize the trays of food so they could be distributed to their specific location. Throughout all of the commotion, I saw one woman from a distribution center thank Freddie for all the food. She was so gracious of DCCK’s support and food we provided for her program. Seeing how happy this woman was made me realize the impact our entire trip would have on our attitude centered on a more selfless world. It was really nice to stand apart from the group and witness this interaction, which inspired me to continue working to continue giving back to those less fortunate.

Having experienced my first day in the kitchen made me excited for our other planned activities. I’m really looking forwards to the remainder of the trip and the insight into our place in society and our individual relationships with the homeless that we will continue to develop over the next few days.