

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Jonathan Huang '06

Head Program Director, Rehab Services



Jonathan Huang got involved with Madison House in his first year at U VA. as a volunteer for the Massanutten Adaptive Snow Sports Program

"I fell in love with volunteering because I felt like I made a difference and I had accomplished something. Spending a day battling or enjoying the elements together with anyone learning to ski is a terrific bonding experience. When you take the time to teach someone who has the courage and perseverance to master what is already a difficult skill in spite of his or her disability, it is even more fulfilling."

The commitment and generosity of spirit expressed in this statement led Jon beyond the role of student volunteer to that of student leader, a fundamental element of the Madison House model. Recognizing that more volunteers were needed for a difficult and often time-consuming program, Jon became a Program director for Adaptive Ski and, ultimately, Head program Director (HPD) for Rehab Services.

Program Directors are trained and empowered by community agencies to function as their volunteer managers. As HPD, Jon cultivates among sit-specific Program directors the sense of a cooperative network of rehabilitation volunteers able to draw on their unique experiences. He also works to increase the visibility of volunteers' contributions at their various sites, along with their pride and professionalism.

Although Jon graduates in May 2006, he will continue to volunteer at Massanutten on his own. As he puts it, work with Madison House *"has kick-started my understanding of the essential work that is done by those in public service and my appreciation of the intimate relationship they develop with their community and the people who live in it."*

Jon is part of a legacy of leadership and service that will continue to inspire—and be inspired by—both those who serve and those who are served.

small house **big difference**