A place that guided me as an individual and nurtured me as a child, Wadeview. Wadeview is a community center located in the city of Orlando. It affiliated with the city of Orlando Parks & Recreations. There are roughly 20 centers that are similar to this center in other communities in Orlando. Wadeview was the center that I attended at the age of 5 to the age of 12. The community center was partnered with my elementary school, Blankner which allowed Wadeview to facilitate an after school program where students attend the community center after school. Instead of taking the opportunity of going to extended day, parents had the choice to decide whether or not Wadeview was the right choice for them. Going to Wadeview at a young age allowed me to make lifetime friends that I still keep in touch with today, not only did I go there after school but I attended the summer program that they would have. The staff were always well equipped and prepared for every scenario and event, which has an impact on how I treat my kids at work. In this paper I will discuss three unforgettable memories I acquired from this location alone.

Wadeview is a center that is located near a high school called Boone High school. They are literally neighbors to each other, it is possible to see Boone from Wadeview’s parking lot. Wadeview is a building made out of cement, the cement is made out of a light brown color with a line pattern on the walls that has a rough feeling to it. There are three doors that are visible from the front of Wadeview. One door is for the entrance and the other two are for the boys and girls bathroom, so that there is easier access to the pool and also a direct entrance to pool, which is 2 ft away. When you walk out the building there is a pool that goes from 3ft to 12ft in depth. It has shaped as a big rectangle with 6 diving boards that are on the shorter end of the rectangle and lifeguard post at every corner of the pool. Towards the park, there is a pond. It a big pond that flows into a lake but the part that is visible for both visitors and kids was shaped as a swirl. In the middle of swirl was a fountain that had water rising from it. The pond doesn’t run all year round but when it does, it is very popular to the kids because there would be a large of tadpoles and frogs inside and around it. As a kid and being a counselor, the hunting for the frogs and catching tadpoles have been the same. There is a vast amount of land in Wadeview Park, with a gated playground being in one corner, it leaves plenty of space for roaming of dogs and children. The park is filled with more than 200 trees, 50 benches, and is where the kids play field games such kickball, soccer, baseball, and etc.

Everyone dreads their first day of work, because you usually enter an environment that is unknown and you have to impress those who already working there. In my case, it was completely the opposite, I had to impress the kids more than the adults. My first day of work and job was at Wadeview Park. It was the first day of camp for the kids in the summer in the year 2016, they were all eager to have fun. I had to wear a dark blue shirt that had “STAFF” in all capital letters on the back of the shirt and the city of Orlando Parks and Recreation on the front. Everyone who was a staff had to always that shirt on with a blue lanyard that had City of Orlando written on it, connected to your staff badge. It was mandatory so that the kids and adults in the community, would know who was in charge of the students in the area. When I walked in the building on my first day with my blue lanyard, shirt, and khakis, I was shocked. Shocked because of how much bigger and larger everything looked compared to when I was younger. I was amazed with the fact that more than 5 years later it rarely changed, I just grew. That day, I came for the afternoon shift roughly around 12 because I had to go over rules and adjust to my surroundings because I wasn’t a kid there anymore, I had bigger responsibilities. After, I finished going over rules I had to go into the multi-purpose room where the kids were being held so that the morning and afternoon staffs could switch. When, I entered the room, it was no different from how I left it in 2009. It was big with red and white walls and tiles, a mini brown stage and big open windows. The kids were sitting in rows related to their ages and talking with loud obnoxious voices. It was me and my co-worker Tamika first day who had curly hair and glasses and also had the same outfit as me, we were put to work as soon as we walked into the room. We was told by the head staff Cris to get the kids to quiet down. Mentally, I wasn’t prepared to yell at the kids but my co-worker was scared to say anything so I had to take it for the team. So, I yelled the highest I possibly can,” There shouldn’t be no talking.” With that being said, the kids were silent.