

*Sharyn Richardson talks about working as Marjory Stoneman Douglas' personal secretary*

Interviewer: You were telling us about what your job is...

Sharon Richardson: Okay, I'm secretary of Friends of the Everglades. That entails basically working with Marjory on-- she gets a lot of mail --and a lot of it, most of it, is addressed to Friends of the Everglades, which Marjory is, Friends of the Everglades, basically. Because she doesn't see to read or write, I do all of her correspondence for her. I read the mail to her. We basically go through the membership, because that all comes here. Somebody else works on membership because we have three thousand members and it's not something that I could do and do everything else. So we have a person who does only membership. And, we get all that together, for her, and then we do the mail and Marjory has quite a bit of correspondence, that she keeps up at a regular rate. People, basically, all over the world. And there's her book that she works on which I don't work on her book with her, but we do do a lot of correspondence that has to do with her book. So, basically, I am secretary of Friends of the Everglades, but I am also Marjory's secretary, which gives me sort of a piece of her life, that I really enjoy being a part of.

Interviewer: How long have you been doing this?

Richardson: Since about October.

Interviewer: So, this is something new.

Richardson: Yes, it's fairly new. I just...she just fingered me. Just one day said, "You!" You know, "Will you?" I said, "Yes! Yes! When do I start?" I've been here ever since. I started coming once a week and now I usually come two or three time a week and it just seems like there is always something else, always more. Just when we think we're - we see the end - the light at the end of the tunnel, something else comes up. Somebody, in Tallahassee does something and we have to launch a new campaign or we find out about something going on, that we have to, that we have to respond to.