Community Impact Internships Program

Internship Profiles 2011
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The Community Impact Internships Program is a summer internship program for undergraduate students run through the Center for Social Concern at the Johns Hopkins University. The program places interns in Baltimore City nonprofit and government agencies for eight-week paid internships with the goal of making a positive impact on the Baltimore City community. In this first and inaugural year of the program, 200 students applied for the 25 intern positions available. The cohorts of the 2011 Community Impact Internships Program worked throughout Baltimore City in a variety of organizations focusing on seven interest areas: education, local government, criminal justice, healthcare and health policy, environment and sustainability, neighborhood and community improvement and women, children and family issues. CIIP is grateful to the anonymous donors who made this program possible.

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The Center for Social Concern is the student life office dedicated to community service and civic engagement and is under the umbrella of Johns Hopkins University’s Homewood Student Affairs (HSA). Other HSA student life divisions include The Office of Student Activities, the Office of Multi-cultural Affairs, The Interfaith Center, The Office of Greek Life, and the Homewood Arts Program.

Our Mission: The Center for Social Concern emphasizes the value of service with others, rather than the commonly accepted concept of service to others. The volunteer and client enter into an educational process where both benefit from the interaction and reciprocal learning is the common ground for all of our initiatives. Our programs and efforts are striving to create a "better community" in and around the Johns Hopkins campus.

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Intern: Mary Katie Fanning ‘12, Political Science
Supervisor: Kalima Young

Mission: The Education Reform Project advocates for improvements for Maryland’s schools and “at-risk” pupils. We work with administrators, parents, community members, students and policymakers to ensure full implementation of Thornton funding, including the geographical cost of education index, along with working for revenue to renovate or replace the numerous dilapidated schools across the state and find other creative sources of additional funding.

http://www.aclu-md.org/top-issues/Education%20Reform/About_ERP.html

Focus: Education

“Meeting people who are so dedicated to their work has inspired me not to give up in my own activism. The Hopkins campus tends to be so apathetic that it is easy to think no one cares. I came to Hopkins with a fire for social justice, and that had been gradually fading. This summer reminded me why personal compassion matters.”  -Katie Fanning
**Mission:** The Baltimore City Needle Exchange (NEP) seeks to reduce HIV, hepatitis C, and other infections by reducing the circulation of unclean syringes. The program also helps drug users to overcome addiction by linking them to drug treatment services. In addition, the program provides testing for syphilis, HIV, and hepatitis C. These services are provided in 17 locations in the city of Baltimore.

http://www.baltimorehealth.org/nep.html

Focus: Healthcare and Health Policy

“I have learned about the importance of harm-reduction initiatives such as our needle exchange program. In addition, I have become more sensitive towards the issues that our clients face—housing concerns, failed attempts at overcoming drug addiction, financial problems, loss of loved ones, health complications. I have also enhanced my abilities to communicate with individuals of different backgrounds. Such skills will be beneficial towards my future career in medicine.” -Anita Ram
Intern: Liz Gomez ‘14, Psychology and Spanish
Supervisor: Gina Baez

Mission: Mi Espacio serves Hispanic teenager, including academic help, mental health groups and referrals, sexual education, access to reproductive services, access to dental check-ups, self-expression through the arts, sports, as well as frequent field trips at no cost to them.

Focus: Education

“CIIP has impacted me by allowing me to work in tandem as both an administrator and a teacher in a difficult environment. This experience has allowed me to begin thought on what I might want to do in the future, and whether I would want to do this again for an extended period of time or not.”
-Liz Gomez
**Intern:** Sylvie McNamara ‘14, History and Africana Studies  
**Supervisor:** Matt Weaver, Don Barton, Corey Reidy

**Missions:**  
**Baltimore Free Farm** promotes urban agriculture, sustainability, and permaculture through the creation of green spaces and community sanctuaries which utilize reclaimed materials whenever possible. **Baltimore Free School** works toward creating a space where the exchange of ideas can occur without the exchange of money. **Baltimore Free Store** take donated & salvaged goods and redistribute them at our store in Baltimore City - free of charge.

http://www.baltimorefreefarm.org/  
http://freeschool.redemmas.org/  
http://www.freestorebaltimore.org/

**Focus:** Environment/ Sustainability

“I know so much more about Baltimore now--not just its geography, but the nonprofit scene and the activist scene, and more about the day to day problems Baltimoreans face. I know about horizontal organizing and collective structure now, about planning and coordinating events. Most importantly I recognize now the importance of hard work by passionate people--they can get so much done, even on a shoestring budget.”

-Sylvie McNamara
Intern: Kelsey Miller ‘12, Writing Seminars and Earth and Planetary Sciences
Supervisor: Miriam Avins

Mission: Baltimore Green Space is a land trust that partners with communities to preserve and support community gardens, pocket parks, and other community-managed open spaces. We aim to protect the social and environmental benefits that residents create through their sweat equity investments in their neighborhoods.

http://www.baltimoregreenspace.org/

Focus: Environment/ Sustainability

“My internship at Baltimore Green Space has definitely taught me a lot about nonprofits – how and why they are started, and how they operate and stay motivated. I've been inspired by my supervisor, who was someone who saw a need in the community, and decided to help. I've also met a lot of amazing people in the community, who are taking the initiative to improve their neighborhoods. Going forward, I think I will be more likely to take the initiative myself – even though I also have a more realistic understanding of all the necessary hard work involved. I also enjoyed having goals with a real-world impact, (which isn't always the case in academia), and I am motivated to continue doing meaningful work.” –Kelsey Miller
Intern: Kenneth Felsenstein ‘12, Public Health and History of Science, Medicine and Technology
Supervisor: David Flores

Mission: BWB’s purpose is to use community based restoration, education, and advocacy to achieve clean water in Baltimore’s rivers, streams, and harbor, so that citizens of the Baltimore region will enjoy a vibrant natural environment, livable neighborhoods, and a healthy, thriving Inner Harbor and Chesapeake Bay. We work towards a future when our neighborhood streams are safe for fishing and swimming and our clean harbor is the pride of our city.

http://bluewaterbaltimore.org/

Focus: Environment/Sustainability

“[CIIP] has made me a more socially and environmentally aware individual, and has fostered within me a vested interest and passion for the welfare of the city of Baltimore. Through my field placement, I have been fortunate enough to be able to contribute to the development of a young, blossoming organization and gain significant experience with community partnerships and coalition building amongst nonprofits. I have learned a significant amount about the interconnectedness of public health and our natural environment, and developed the technical standards to be successful in an environmentally-driven organization. I sincerely appreciate having had this opportunity, and I look forward to continuing my involvement in the environmental/public health sector.” -Kenny Felsenstein
**Intern:** Susan Fallon ’13, Public Health  
**Supervisor:** Ashley Wallace  

**Mission:** CBP is working across four neighborhoods: Barclay, Old Goucher, Greenmount West and Charles North, to engage neighborhood organizations, property owners, universities, and nonprofit agencies to strengthen these communities.


Focus: Neighborhood/ Community Improvement

“This summer taught me a lot. I came to understand the inner workings of a nonprofit (the positives and the negatives) and was introduced to so many people in the public service field. This internship gave me insight into what I do and don't want to do with my future, information I wouldn't have gained otherwise. I became much better acquainted with Baltimore and its neighborhoods and am no longer scared to venture beyond 30th St. But most importantly, my experience as a CII forced me to see that in everything I do, I am responsible for my own success and I should have faith in myself.” -Susan Fallon
Intern: Mathew Brown ‘12, Psychology
Supervisor: Tammy Mayer

Mission: CPHA brings about a healthy, inclusive Baltimore by bringing together people and neighborhoods to create innovative solutions to challenging, community-wide problems, empowering citizens with information and skills for advocacy and organizing, and championing solutions through legislative and policy reforms.

http://www.cphabaltimore.org/

Focus: Neighborhood/Community Improvement

“This internship has taught me a lot about working independently and being a self-motivator. My supervisor has truly handed over this project to me and I have had to motivate myself to get things done in a timely manner to create something that I was proud of. Since I had so much control over the survey I was challenged to speak up when meeting with my supervisor and the executive director. I had to learn how to voice my opinions when otherwise I would sit back and let my superiors make the major decisions. This internship has been a great experience and taught me so many valuable life skills that will translate over for any future career I pursue.” -Mathew Brown
**Intern:** Teno Boone ‘13, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
**Supervisor:** John Bernet

**Mission:** GHCC’s mission is to build and strengthen vibrant urban communities in north central Baltimore. We envision a network of city neighborhoods that has safe, healthy, ecologically sustainable environments, high-quality, affordable housing options, educational opportunities for all ages, abundant recreational and cultural amenities, convenient mobility choices, thriving commercial districts with responsible businesses, a strong sense of community and civic engagement, and diversity in age, race, faith, and economic status.

Focus: Neighborhood/Community Improvement

“[This] internship has allowed me to see the dedication and passion of the people working in non-profits. Everyday I walked in the door of my organization I felt inspired by the hard work that people put forth day after day. It gave me great satisfaction to know that I could be a little piece of the great work that was being done by Greater Homewood on so many different fronts. My experience has definitely set the course for me to start my own non-profit sooner or later and if I have the same attributes as GHCC than I know I will achieve the impact I'm looking for. Through Greater Homewood I also had the chance to dig deeper into why Baltimore is the way it is and learn about the valiant efforts people are doing to better my streets and schools.”

- Teno Boone
Intern: Frank Molina ‘14, Sociology  
Supervisor: Ryan Manalo  

Mission: Higher Achievement Program develops academic skills, behaviors, and attitudes in academically motivated and underserved middle school children to improve their grades, test scores, attendance, and opportunities – resulting in acceptance to top high schools.

http://www.higherachievement.org/  

Focus: Education

“The Community Impact Internship has impacted me in various ways. First, I have been able to see that a small group of people with a common goal can really make a difference in the world. Secondly, I have learned that I have the ability to get up in front of a class of middle school students and not only hold their attention, but also teach them a lesson successfully. I am really glad to have had this experience since I have learned a lot about the non-profits in Baltimore. I have also learned a great deal about myself and have gained a greater understanding of who I am and what I would like to do in my life.”  -Frank Molina
Interns: Kevin Easterly ‘12, English and Cielo Jaimes ’12, Public Health
Supervisor: Tong Zhang

Mission: IMP uses a "family-style" mentoring approach to foster the transformation of high school students, who are not meeting minimum academic requirements and facing significant psychosocial challenges, into self-motivated, resourceful, and socially aware leaders committed to a higher purpose of their own.

http://incentivementoringprogram.org/

Focus: Education

“The program’s duration has been a short six weeks and in many ways its successes have been slight. But to me, this is the greatest thing that can be said about IMP. It indicates the spirit that lies beneath everything else. The vast community of people that have given their time, energy, brain-power, and (sometimes) their tears under the IMP banner is an inspiration. That’s what it all boils down to, and what I’ll take away from the summer: the philosophy that there’s absolutely no victory so small that it’s not worth working for. It’s with that attitude (plus seven years’ worth of persistence) that IMP is changing the lives of a lot of young people, and I’m proud to have played my little role in it.” -Kevin Easterly

“I learned to be more flexible with what I did and be able to ‘feel my audience’ and adjust to their immediate needs, not necessarily playing it always ‘by the book’. This is my first summer in Baltimore and surely one of the best summers so far. I’ve gotten to do not everything in my bucket list but a lot more than I ever imagined was possible. The city now has more of a reachable feel, and it isn’t because I have a car to drive around but because I’ve explored and discovered what the city has to offer.” -Cielo Jaimes
Intern: Lauren Pennachio ‘12, Neuroscience and History of Science
Supervisor: Deborah Pyles

Mission: JHR offers homeless men the opportunity to rebuild their lives and return to their families and society as productive, self-sufficient and independent citizens. We provide the tools, information and supportive environment necessary for life-long recovery from substance abuse.

http://www.jhrbaltimore.org/

Focus: Healthcare and Health Policy

“Aside from gaining amazing work experience and developing skills vital to event development, this program has opened my eyes to a possible future in non-profits, specifically in development. As a neuroscience major, my fear has always been that my future in the real world will be limited to something directly related to my degree. This program has taught me that it is not so much your degree that matters but rather your experience, your work ethic, your skills, and your passion. It’s been a sigh of relief to know that the nonprofit workplace places values on things other than degrees, GPAs, and test scores. I have learned that you can be valuable asset in any setting that you wish to be a part of.” -Lauren Pennachio
Intern: Joanna Craig ‘12, Behavioral Biology
Supervisor: Mariska Jordan

Mission: Jubilee Arts provides opportunities in the arts to enrich the social, spiritual, and creative life of the residents in the Sandtown-Winchester, Upton and surrounding areas.

http://www.jubileeartsbaltimore.org/

Focus: Education

“The Community Impact Internships Program has given me the opportunity to form a relationship with people living in a different community and living through an entirely different experience than my own, a relationship that has taught me more about myself than I ever expected it to. I have learned so much not only about my own organization but about the other featured organizations as well, information that I will hopefully use in the future to take advantage of volunteering opportunities.” - Joanna Craig
Intern: Dominique Duval ‘12, Public Health and Natural Science

Supervisor: Angela Long

Mission: Martha’s Place is a Maryland state-certified recovery program for women overcoming drug addiction and homelessness. Martha's Place borders Baltimore's communities of Sandtown-Winchester and Upton and offers both six-month transitional housing as well as long-term Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing.

http://www.marthasplace.org/

Focus: Women, Children and Family Issues

“I learned so much about a part of Baltimore I never knew about before. One of the most blighted areas of Baltimore is one of the most beloved, from the inside out--I've seen genuine love from and within a community and it's so cool how the leaders live in it. I've seen addiction in a new light and the difference between people who really want help and are willing to fight to the death for it and those who just aren't serious enough to stop using. Also, seeing the importance of grants and fundraising has been eye opening. You can have all of the right tools and planning in place and the perfect vision, but if the money isn't there, then nothing can really happen the way you want it to, and it can get stressful.” –Dominique Duval
Intern: Kristan Rosenthal ‘12, Public Health
Supervisor: David Mbeya

Mission: The Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees (MORA) provides support and services to federally-recognized refugees and political asylees to ease their integration into American society.

Baltimore Medical System is a community-based, independent non-profit dedicated to improving the health and wellness of medically underserved communities in the Greater Baltimore area.

http://www.dhr.state.md.us/mora/http://www.bmsi.org/about_us/new_highlandtown_healthy_living_center

Focus: Healthcare and Health Policy

“More than anything, this summer has been a huge learning experience for me. The refugee and asylee population in Baltimore is growing very quickly, and yet it is very often overlooked. After shadowing some appointments and getting a real feel for how difficult of a transition it is into American society, especially the healthcare system, I am so happy to have been able to use my health literacy and educational skills to help new Americans adjust in any way possible.” –Kristan Rosenthal
Intern:  Samantha Berns ‘12, Public Health
Supervisor:  Kate Briddell

Mission:  This agency was created by Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake in 2010 to develop and implement an integrated system of support for vulnerable populations through three focus areas – homeless services, community action partnerships (CAP), and reentry.

http://www.baltimorecity.gov/OfficeoftheMayor/MayoralOffices/HumanServices.aspx

Focus: Healthcare and Health Policy

“This program has allowed for me to fully understand both homelessness as a social and public health issue, and to explore what work in a government agency is like (a career path I am interested in). It was also great to spend the summer exploring and learning about Baltimore, something I don’t have enough time to do during the school year.”  -Sam Berns
Intern: Ayresleigh Rowland ‘13, Anthropology and French
Supervisor: Amy Panoni

Mission: My Sister’s Place Women’s Center is a comprehensive resource center welcoming Baltimore’s homeless and poor women and their children. The mission of the program is to provide a safe, supportive environment where vulnerable women and their families can access housing, referrals, life skills training, and other resources to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency.

http://www.catholiccharities-md.org/my-sisters-place

Focus: Women, Children and Family Issues

“The most significant piece of knowledge I have gained through my participation in this internship program is how difficult it can be to make a positive impact. Often, I feel overwhelmed by the sheer amount of work that needs to be done to improve the lives of Baltimore’s most vulnerable and underserved populations. Now, I can more easily set smaller, more meaningful goals for myself, and direct my efforts to making the most lasting impact I can. I have learned so much more than I can express now, and I know that I will continue to look back on my experience this summer for guidance in the future.” –Ayresleigh Rowland
Intern:  Stephanie Curtin ’12, English  
Supervisor:  Mark Friedenthal  

Mission:  The mission of the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) is to provide superior legal representation to indigent defendants in the State of Maryland by safeguarding fundamental individual rights and ensuring access to the guaranteed protections afforded by the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Maryland Constitution and Declaration of Rights, and the laws of Maryland. 

[http://www.opd.state.md.us/juvenile.html](http://www.opd.state.md.us/juvenile.html)  
Focus: Criminal Justice  

“CIIP has impacted my career aspirations and general outlook. This experience has affirmed my desire to practice law while making me aware of the emotional strain of working with kids. Overall, I now have a greater appreciation of the big picture. I have been exposed to the varying circumstances and backgrounds of the kids we serve and have consequently developed a better understanding of what impacted their current situations. Lastly, this internship has helped to make Baltimore accessible. While before I knew little about the city and didn't do much exploration, I now know how much this city has to offer.”  -Stephanie Curtin
**Intern:** Phillips Mitchell ‘13, English and History of Art  
**Supervisor:** Bill Vondrasek, Chief of Parks

**Mission:** The Parks & People Foundation is dedicated to supporting a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities; creating and sustaining beautiful and lively parks; and promoting a healthy natural environment for Baltimore.

http://parksandpeople.org/

Focus: Environment/ Sustainability

“Throughout this summer, I engaged about 500 Baltimore citizens I probably would not have had a chance to meet during the school year. As an American citizen, I feel responsible to evaluate the government, and working for the city government gave me an insider's perspective of ‘the system’. The Department of Parks and Recreation truly impressed me from the kind employees to the plethora of affordable summer camps for Baltimore youth. I hope to maintain relationships with many of the people and organizations I interacted with over the course of these eight weeks. The places and people I encountered driving and walking around Baltimore taught me more about the history of Baltimore than I could ever learn from a book, and I now see why it is so important to prevent Baltimore from dissipating from the American memory.”  
-Phillips Mitchell
Intern:  Adelina Huo ‘13, Public Health  
Supervisor:  Roxanne Beharie

Mission: For the first time, Baltimore has created a strategic initiative that brings together the right agencies and people to improve an often-fragmented health care system and reach families that are hardest to serve. The initiative has three phases: Healthy and Safe Parenting, Healthy Pregnancy, Healthy Baltimore.

http://healthybabiesbaltimore.com/,  http://peoplesbaltimore.org/  

Focus: Healthcare and Health Policy

“I gained a better understanding of Baltimore City, its strengths and weaknesses, and experienced how non-profit organizations operate. I became more optimistic about the work that is being done to overcome obstacles in Baltimore and reaffirmed my desire to work in public service.”  -Lina Huo
Intern: Alexandera Sasha Guttentag ’13, Public Health

Supervisor: Jacqui Robarge

Mission: Power Inside is a human rights and harm reduction organization that serves women and girls who are survivors of gender-based violence and oppression. We serve women impacted by incarceration, street life and abuse. We offer direct services, advocacy, leadership development and public education to help women build self-sufficiency, heal from violence, and avoid future criminal justice contact.

http://www.powerinside.org/

Focus: Women, Children and Family Issues

“CIIP impacted me greatly, both in a personal way and a professional way. It helped me grow as a person and introduce me to a whole new potential career path in social work, case management, and/or criminal law. It made me aware of a whole new school of thought regarding harm reduction and active listening, which I will continue to practice throughout my life working with people. It taught me a lot about stepping out of my comfort zone, and being able to do so with utmost confidence. At the same time, I was reminded daily that asking questions is always encouraged and admitting confusion is totally okay. I was accepted readily into an office space that was always welcoming and always felt very safe and loving, and that is a memory I will never forget and hope to experience in any department I work for professionally.” –Sasha Guttentag
Intern: Stephanie Earle ‘12; Chemistry
Supervisor: Marlene Sorra

Mission: The mission of Shepherd’s Clinic is to provide quality, affordable health care for the uninsured, helping those who are unable to afford commercial health insurance, yet do not qualify for government medical assistance.

http://shepherdsclinic.org/

Focus: Healthcare and Health Policy

“I realized that it takes a lot of small steps and quite a few people to keep an organization like Shepherd's afloat. Hence, what impacted me the most while working at the clinic was seeing the number of people who were willing to give up a couple of hours of their day to help, so that we could provide a service that many of these patients might not have found anywhere else. Working in Shepherd's and witnessing the difference volunteers can actually make in the lives of others was truly special and it was simply great to know that a place like Shepherd's does exist and that this kind of thing can be done.” -Steph Earle
Intern: Jewel Edwards-Waldo ‘12, Writing Seminars and Sociology
Supervisor: Kata Frederick

Mission: The Finding Our Wings Community Documentary Program’s video skills based educational model focuses on the holistic needs of a small group of teens striving for an effective education in communities faced with a high percentage of high school drop-out.

http://www.findingourwings.org/

Focus: Women, Children and Family Issues

“At the beginning of the summer I entered a screening of the Finding Our Wings Documentary Program and gained a glimpse into the lives of ten girls who I quickly realized were multifaceted and precocious young women. During my eight-week internship, I have learned countless technical skills, but more importantly, I have been touched by the raw emotion of it all. The purely benevolent, nonjudgmental and uplifting atmosphere on which Finding Our Wings thrives impacted me deeply, so much so that it leaves me unable to say goodbye just yet. I look forward to assisting in the search for Wings in the near future.” -Jewel Edwards-Waldo
Intern: Danielle Lohan ‘13, Public Health  
Supervisor: Jeanne Allert  

Mission: The Samaritan Women’s mission is to promote Health, Healing, and Hope in some of the most desperate and dark situations.

http://thesamaritanwomen.org/

Focus: Women, Children and Family Issues

“This has totally changed my outlook on nonprofits and what ‘public health’ is. I feel I’ve gained a rare glimpse into the efforts of a small group of dedicated people who want to help others. I feel compelled to continue my work, and have officially secured an independent study with The Samaritan Women for next fall semester.” –Danielle Lohan