



Community Impact Internships Program

Internship Profiles 2015





2015 Community Impact Internships Program Interns

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The Community Impact Internships Program (CIIP) is a competitive, paid summer internship program housed within the Center for Social Concern at Johns Hopkins University. The program pairs JHU undergraduate students with nonprofit organizations and government agencies to work on community-identified projects. The goal of this program is two-fold; to give JHU undergraduates an opportunity to be directly involved in a community in Baltimore City and to support the important work being done by nonprofits and government agencies.

The cohort of the 2015 Community Impact Internships Program worked throughout Baltimore City in a variety of organizations focusing on ten interest areas: **education, homelessness and poverty, criminal justice, healthcare and health policy, environment and sustainability, community gardens and food access, neighborhood and community improvement, arts, nonprofit management, and women, children and family issues.** After this fifth year of CIIP, 225 undergraduates and over 100 community partners have been able to participate in this program, contributing over 60,000 hours to Baltimore City. This program is made possible thanks to a generous \$2.25 million gift by an anonymous donor.



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 (HAS). Other HAS student life divisions include The Office of Student Activities, The Office of Multicultural 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 education 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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Community Partner: 29th Street Community Center

Intern: Russell Hughes

Site Supervisor: Ali Warhaftig

What is the 29th Street Community Center?

The mission of the 29th Street Community Center is to offer a space for meaningful community building and high quality enrichment programming that adds value and vibrancy to surrounding neighborhoods and the Barclay Elementary/Middle School.

During my time at the 29th St. Community Center I met some people doing excellent work in the community. One fosters a familial culture in her GED class (to the point that they had an impromptu potluck for someone's birthday), another organizes youth to revitalize a neglected park. A third gave a full camp of kids the opportunity to develop their interests for the better part of a month, and a fourth is working to plan, promote, and execute an exciting National Night Out for her community. And, of course, at the center we provide and support a wide range of programming open to the community. My coworkers' and associates' ability to translate their personal skills into community impacting events and programs has inspired me to try to hybridize my scientific interests with my desire to serve the community. I am currently investigating the feasibility of running a biological research STEM program aimed at local teenagers with an interest in learning how research really works. Whether it works out or not, I would like to thank everyone that showed me that I can do more with the skills that I have than gather and interpret data. I would also like to thank my Youthworkers for being the best in the city (hands down). And I would like to give a special thanks to Derek and Ali, who were better coworkers than I could have possibly asked for. It's been quite a run, and it's been fun. And with any luck, it isn't over yet.

--Russ



Tasks:

- Planned, prepared for, and executed an after-camp program for children with the help of 3 Youth-workers
- Helped plan professional development opportunities for our 14 Youth-workers
- Assisted with day-to-day tasks at the center including database management, program tracking, and supporting the multiple concurrent summer camps and programs
- Prepared our laptops for future use by cleaning up junk/malicious programs and placing protections against future misuse



Community Partner: 901 Arts

Intern: Kristen Lineback

Site Supervisor: Sarah Tooley

What is 901 Arts?

901 Arts is a community-based youth arts center dedicated to providing art and music programs to the children and teens of the Better Waverly neighborhood. 901 Arts provides a safe, creative, and empowering space for Better Waverly Youth to express themselves and develop as artists and community leaders. The art center is an integral part of our community's ongoing efforts to build a safer, stronger and more vibrant neighborhood.



Working at 901 Arts has allowed me to learn so much about Better Waverly and its people, and for that I am incredibly thankful. The more I realized how central the center is to some of the families in the neighborhood, the harder I worked to ensure the programming would be as fun as possible for the kids. It was rewarding to see some of the campers playing games I had taught them after camp had ended, knowing that I had made a meaningful contribution by giving them a more enjoyable summer.

-Kristen



Tasks:

- Coordinated and led outdoors games, including science and organized sports activities
- Assistant to director of 901 Arts
- Community Outreach to promote community and 901 Arts events

Community Partner: Alternative Directions

Peer Mentor: Faith Owhonda

Site Supervisor: Michelle Kelly

What is Alternative Directions?

Alternative Directions is a Baltimore-based nonprofit organization that helps men and women in prison those leaving prison become independent, responsible citizens



Tasks:

- Assisting in workshops within prisons discussing services Alternative Directions provides as well as other community resources
- Acting as a camp counselor at the summer camp
- Putting case and inmate demographic information into Alternative Direction's database
- Gathering resources to send to inmates as well as checking Maryland's case search for most recent information on client's cases

As a Peer mentor in my 2nd year with CIIP, I had certain expectations and hopes for this summer. I wanted to do more at my site, make a greater impact, explore more of Baltimore and basically top anything that was done the previous year. Those goals were somewhat unrealistic but I am happy that working at Alternative Directions has been a great learning experience. I discovered what I desire from a work environment and the type of job I want for the future. While working at my site's summer camp I realized that being a teacher is not something I can see myself doing long term, but I enjoyed being with the kids and organizing activities while being firm but supportive in balancing fun and useful experiences for them. I also learned that I prefer an office setting, like working with the civil legal team. Working with paralegals has been challenging, from writing letters to our incarcerated clients, checking on court cases, and drafting official court documents. All of these tasks have given me valuable exposure to the legal world and what it requires to start a case and follow it whether the case is granted, closed or even denied. I had a great supervisor, Jay, who explained Maryland laws, grant applications, and even allowed me to follow him to court to see a divorce case for a few of our clients. I am grateful for everything I was able to experience this summer, from visiting two women's prisons to jumping rope with the campers, and having great coworkers who never hesitated to answer any question I had. CIIP has been one of the main things I've enjoyed doing these past two summers and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate for a 2nd year. –Faith

Community Partner: Art with a Heart

Peer Mentor: Lee Thompson

Site Supervisor: Christina Ralls

What is Art with a Heart?

Art with a Heart's mission is to enhance the lives of people in need through visual art.

Tasks:

- Assist in teaching an art class for AWAH's summer job program
- Researched and tested samples to be used in art class
- Oversaw AWAH's store HEART wears during staff meetings
- Helped organize fund donations for students in AWAH's summer job training program.



Working in Baltimore this summer for Art with a Heart has been the best job experience I've had thus far. I was fortunate enough to have a very active role as an intern, learning all kinds of technical art skills as I helped to make art samples and prepare for Art with a Heart's summer job training program. During this program, I was able to teach as an assistant, helping young women to create marketable art and to learn job skills needed for the professional world. Assistant teaching was definitely a learning experience for me. At times I was faced with giving critiques of students' work (that would eventually be sold), and had to figure out how to encourage my students to be patient and put a little extra care into their artwork. I knew that teaching would prove to be a challenge, but in the end the experience was more than worthwhile. At the end of the job training program, one of my students said to me, "Sometimes just looking at you made me want to be nicer." I hadn't come into this program expecting to make an enormous difference, but in that moment it felt like I had done something meaningful. -Lee

Community Partner: Baltimore Corps

Intern: Anjani Patel

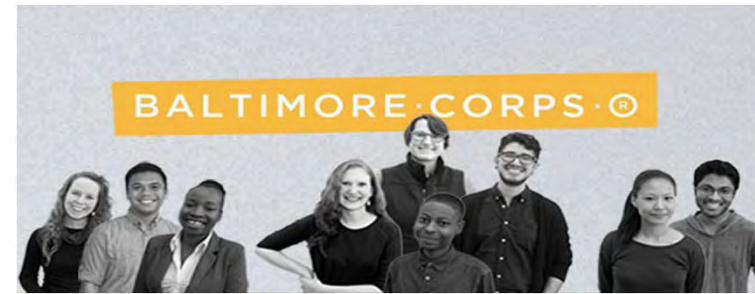
Site Supervisor: Kevin Easterly

What is Baltimore Corps?

Baltimore Corps is a fellowship program that connects social minded leaders with nonprofits in Baltimore

Tasks:

- Analyzed Visionary Change Leader (VCL) data from the last Fellowship cycle
- Linked TeamUp calendar with our Salesforce portal
- Researched grants for additional Visionary Cause Leaders to help them find funding for a Fellow this upcoming Fellowship cycle
- Worked on special projects relating to Fellowship Class 2 including, but not limited to orientation, research projects, and Salesforce communities



Being able to spend a summer working at Baltimore Corps has truly been a gift. From my first day, I was given the ability to tailor my time with Baltimore Corps to fit my interests and skills. I was encouraged to pursue projects that wouldn't just help the organization but would help me sharpen my skills as well. I am thankful to have been able to hone my analytical abilities while also broadening my horizons. Before I even began work, one of my coworkers said something that has stuck with me, "Just because we're a nonprofit doesn't mean we can't operate like a corporate entity with regards to the efficiency of our business models and processes." Baltimore Corps' ability to harness the power of technology to scale the impact of not just Baltimore Corps, but other nonprofits across the city has floored me. Though I have gained many skills from my time with this new start-up, one of the most important realizations for me has been that working smarter, rather than harder, is what will ultimately create lasting and sustainable organizations that change the landscape of Baltimore. This lesson is especially valuable now, as I get ready for another year at Hopkins and begin to lead and restructure organizations of my own.

- Anjani

Community Partner: Baltimore Green Space

Intern: James Hughes

Site Supervisor: Katie Lautar

What is Baltimore Green Space?

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.



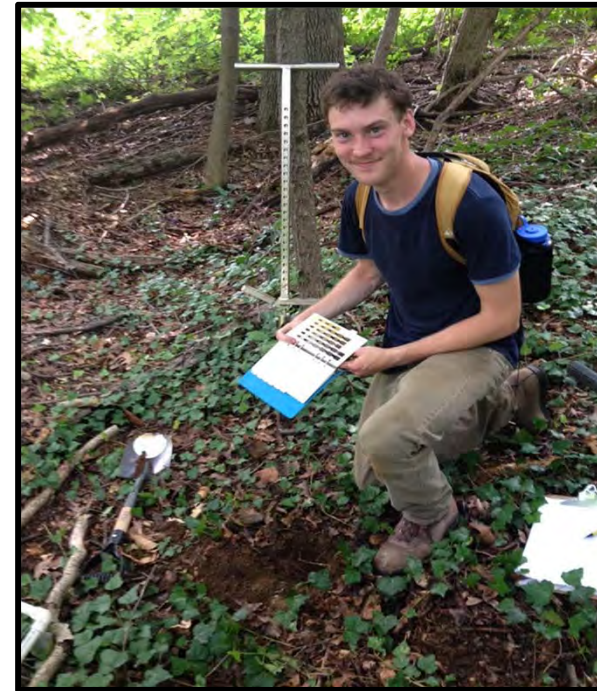
Baltimore Green Space

preserving neighborhoods' treasured open spaces

A Land Trust for
Community-Managed
Open Space

Prior to my internship with Baltimore Green Space, my knowledge of forest ecology and environmental sustainability was limited. In fact, I was unaware that Baltimore had forest patches apart from city parks. Since then, I have had the opportunity to work closely with community gardeners and forestry experts to assess and protect what Baltimore has to offer. By gardening at the Duncan Street Miracle Garden, I witnessed how a community garden can directly impact the lives of surrounding residents. By working with forest ecologists to survey forest patches around Baltimore, I gained a stronger understanding of the current condition of Baltimore's forests. Working with Baltimore Green Space has given me the opportunity to see Baltimore from a new angle, through the lens of environmental suitability, if you will. For these new perspectives, I am forever grateful for the eight weeks I spent in CIIP.

-James



Tasks:

- Statistically analyzing forest patch data collected by Baltimore Green Space during the Summer of 2013 and 2014.
- Helping to rigorously describe the current state of Baltimore's forest patches by developing and executing survey protocol.
- Gardening once a week at the Duncan Street Miracle Garden, a community garden protected by Baltimore Green Space.

Community Partner: Baltimore Orchard Project

Intern: Matt Bee

Site Supervisor: Ben Howard

What is Baltimore Orchard Project?

Baltimore Orchard Project strengthens communities through planting and cultivating orchards.



My summer at Baltimore Orchard Project has been more fulfilling than I could have ever imagined. Going into the internship, I had expectations that I would be performing a lot of menial tasks to fulfill the goals of the Baltimore Orchard Project. What actually happened was a full immersion into the Baltimore City community to work with a variety of groups and organizations. I have formulated some incredible relationships with pastors, teachers, and community leaders; my only complaint is that I did not have enough time. Planning and planting an orchard is not a two-month process. It involves formulating relationships, establishing a plan, creating a site map, working with other constituents, and solidifying how to implement the orchard within the mission of the organization. There are countless conversations that need to take place; however, it is from these interactions that I have created the relationships I now have today within Baltimore. I no longer feel removed from the city as a Hopkins student but as someone who can thoroughly navigate the networks and communities that are so well established within Small-timore. I cannot thank CIIP enough for allowing me to step out of my boundaries and become a part of the Baltimore community.

- Matthew

Tasks:

- Reconnected with past planting partners from several years back to coordinate care and maintenance of fruit trees.
- Worked with City Planners and other city officials to identify key organizations and locations in Baltimore that would be interested in and benefit from planting orchards.
- Worked with a variety of congregations, schools, and neighborhood organizations to coordinate planting, pruning, fruit thinning, and mulching days.
- Surveyed plots of land to create site maps with potential fruit tree locations based on size of tree, preference for particular fruit trees, availability of sun, soil pH, and drainage rates.

Community Partner: Baltimore SquashWise

Peer Mentor: David Mampre

Site Supervisor: Matt Skarzynski

What is SquashWise?

SquashWise is a non profit after-school youth enrichment program serving public middle school students in Baltimore City.

Due to heavy demands during the school year, many students find it difficult to explore and connect with their own city. This disappointing circumstance has been my driving force for joining CIIP and my biggest take-away from the program. My summer with CIIP has played an instrumental role in expanding my personal map of Baltimore. I was able to learn about the city in a way that will extend its influence to my peers at Hopkins, and my friends and family in other parts of the country. This newfound connection to Baltimore has made me an advocate committed to spreading the positive perception of our city, at a time when that may not always be the case across the country. I am grateful for my placement at Baltimore SquashWise, where I was able to share lessons I've learned as a student-athlete at Hopkins, all the while learning about youth and the bright future the city has in store. My development as a Baltimorean was advanced through being surrounded by a group of interns equally passionate about the city and by making professional connections within the non-profit industry. These factors have further entwined me in the culture of the city and serve as motivating factors to remain here. Whatever the future may hold, I am extremely happy I have had the fortune of spending time in Baltimore and personally taken the time to get to know the community with great thanks to the Community Impact Internships Program -David



Tasks:

- Data analysis on the academic impact of our program
- Tutoring and support in academic sessions
- Supervision of field trips throughout the city
- Team building and event planning as a Peer Mentor

Community Partner: Blue Water Baltimore

Intern: Yuan Hao Wong

Site Supervisor: Katie Dix

What is Blue Water Baltimore?

Blue Water Baltimore's mission is to restore the quality of Baltimore's rivers, streams and harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy and thriving community.



Tasks:

- Conducted tidal and non-tidal water quality sampling to monitor historically contaminated sites
- Assisted in various volunteer events such as Adopt-A-Stream training, Stream Clean-ups and Rain Barrel Workshops.
- Worked with the tree planting team in carrying out tree sampling and maintenance across various planting sites

If I were to describe my internship experience using a phrase, it will be: "Every drop counts". This phrase embodies the very message that Blue Water seeks to spread to the Baltimore community – a message that serves to ignite a greater sense of ownership of our local water bodies and to impassion the community into taking concrete actions to keep our streams clean. In these 8 weeks, I was part of a several tidal and non-tidal water quality sampling projects, where I helped monitor the water quality at various historically contaminated sites. In addition, I took part in various outreach programs such as Canoe-And-Scoop, trash-cleanups and storm drain stenciling. I was also involved in tree surveys and maintenance of previous plantings. As diverse as all these projects may sound, it dawned upon me that we are always working towards the same goal all these while; that all these activities are tributaries leading to the overarching aim of engaging the community in Blue Water's efforts to promote cleaner and healthier water bodies here in Baltimore. Each program may require hours of planning and execution but these programs are the "drops" that matter, perhaps not too palpable now, but certainly in years to come. My stint at Blue Water Baltimore has filled me with hope, that one day this city will have a clean and healthy harbor for all to enjoy- Yuan

Community Partner: Boone Street Farm/Whitelock Community Farm

Intern: Maggie Weese

Site Supervisors: Cheryl Carmona and Alison Worman

What is Boone Street Farm/Whitelock Community Farm?

Boone Street Farm provides large outdoor space to grow fresh produce



Tasks

- Farm work including weeding and planting beds, watering seedlings, broad forking new rows, mulching, and harvesting produce.
- Prepped and operated the weekly neighborhood farm stand. From this stand, the farm was able to distribute their weekly CSA shares, sell produce at reduced prices, and meet new community members.
- Assisted in organizing a community potluck that provided over 40 community members with food, fun, and an opportunity to learn more about the farm.
- Researched the feasibility and process of transitioning an urban farm into a permanent green space.



I knew I loved living in Baltimore even before this summer. Not just for the beer that used to be brewed here or for the football team that plays in the stadium near by, but for the passion its citizens have. However, this summer allowed me to finally put faces to many of the passionate greeners that I have read about, heard from and aspired to follow. Having the incredible opportunity to work on two urban farms has taught me the balancing act that takes place on many urban farms. They often have to juggle issues around land security, water access, community outreach, youth education, and farm safety all in addition to crop production. However, they do it and often with grace. From the passionate people I worked with on the farm, to the incredible neighbors who lived just around the corner, I am thankful for the opportunity to meet them and share our love of food. One of the most empowering things I have ever done is eat food that I grew with my own two hands, and I learned this right on the farms I worked at this summer. I can only hope that others are able to continue having incredible experiences like that.- Maggie

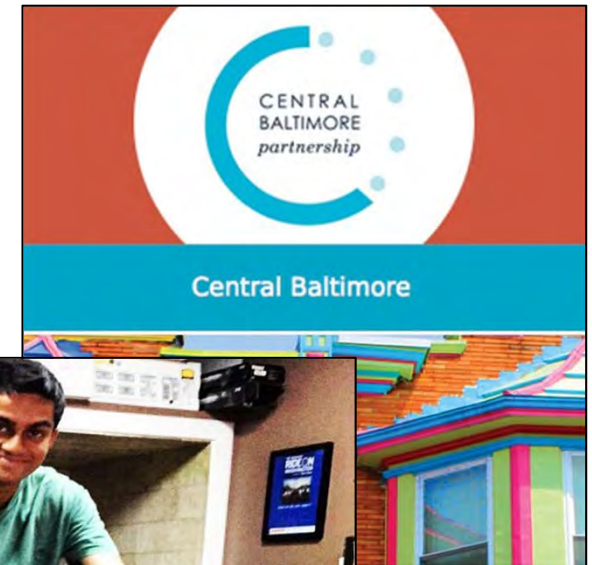
Community Partner: Central Baltimore Partnerships

Intern: Miguel Dias

Site Supervisor: Ashley Wallace

What is Central Baltimore Partnerships?

Central Baltimore Partnership's mission is to galvanize the renaissance of Central Baltimore.



This summer I have had the privilege to meet and work with an extraordinary and passionate group of individuals that are strengthening and building Central Baltimore. This network of artists, entrepreneurs, residents, organizations and community members share a common passion to make Baltimore neighborhoods healthier, more livable and more sustainable. I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the unique, holistic approach Central Baltimore Partnership translates to the community; all the way from grass-roots community organizing to City wide public policy implementation. Every day at Central Baltimore Partnership I was exposed to new experiences, skills and perspectives, be it through door knocking campaigns or collaborating with other community partners on grant applications. I am extremely thankful for both CIIP and the CBP team for giving me the opportunity to learn, experience and explore Baltimore this summer- Miguel



Tasks:

- Managed a total of \$2.2million Neighborhood Revitalization grants
- Edited 17 applications and coordinated with 14 community partners for grant applications.
- Developed an online reimbursement system for the Homewood Community Partners Initiative Spruce-Up grants program to reduce intake and processing time.
- Designed and implemented a neighborhood door knocking outreach program for Greenmount West and Charles North

Community Partner: Chase Brexton Health Services

Intern: Saachi Nangla

Site Supervisor: Ken Ruby III

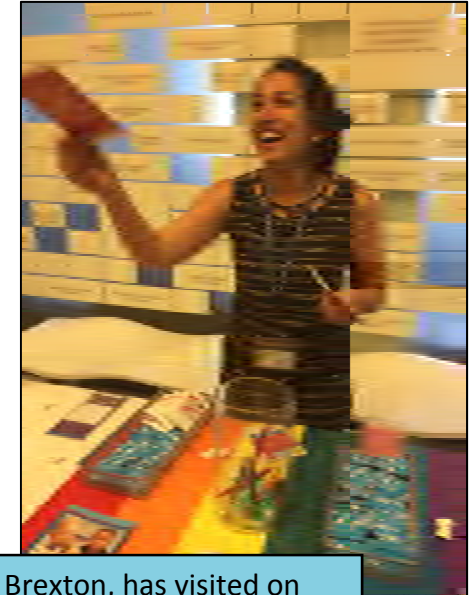
What is Chase Brexton?

Our mission is to provide compassionate, quality health care that honors diversity, inspires wellness, and improves our communities.



Tasks:

- Organize the pilot partnership between Chase Brexton and Maryland Hunger Solutions to
- assist eligible clients apply for food stamps through the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Promote awareness of HIV/AIDS through programs such as National HIV Testing Week and PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis).
- Support the Case Management Department through patient outreach efforts, assisting with implementing a model based on the HIV Cascade of Care, providing front desk coverage, and more.



Donut Guy, as he is affectionately known in the Case Management and Outreach Department at Chase Brexton, has visited on multiple occasions during my time at Chase. He brings donuts – dozens of them. He always comes in with a smile, and he always manages to convince even the most resistant that a donut is necessary. He brings them for the staff at Chase because they saved his life. He explains this to me earnestly, exuding gratitude for everything his doctors, nurses, MAs, and case managers at Chase Brexton have done for him. Donut Guy is just one example of how and why Chase Brexton is a certified Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH). They consistently have their patients in mind as they provide holistic care. The Case Management Department plays a critical role in this commitment to their patients; the case managers work to account for the obstacles that no diagnosis or prescription can predict, such as homelessness, insurance issues, legal concerns, and financial barriers. They pay particular attention to the HIV population, a persistent problem in Baltimore, where over 13,000 are diagnosed with HIV. And, most of all, they achieve results. Take, for example, the fact that nearly 90% of the Chase Brexton HIV clients were virally suppressed this month, a feat which means these patients have a nearly normal life expectancy and a decreased chance of transmission. On the other hand, only about 18% are virally suppressed in Baltimore City. That is a remarkable way to make a difference in somebody's life. It is this lesson – the impact of holistic care – that I will carry with me as I continue pursuing my interest in health. A huge thank you to everybody at Chase Brexton for producing this outstanding vision of healthcare and for sharing it with me once again.-Saachi

Community Partner: Community Greening Resource Network

Intern: Sunny Kim

Site Supervisor: Valerie Rupp

What is the Community Greening Resource Network?

Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN) is an annual membership program assisting individuals, community gardens, schools and green spaces throughout the City of Baltimore. By coordinating the resources available in our city, CGRN provides a comprehensive and consistent support network making it easier to maintain the valuable green spaces in your community.

I entered into my internship at Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN), a program of the larger Parks and People foundation, with little guidance. I was the only one managing the program and I was intimidated and discouraged at first. Parks and People is a large organization that does great work throughout the city but operates on a "top-down" system unlike the grassroots non-profit work I was used to in my experience prior to the internship. I credit my 8 weeks at Parks and People for an important life lesson: being young and new is no reason to be intimidated. Believe in your fullest capabilities and take ownership.

Besides from my time and Parks and People, CIIP has also enriched my life. I was encouraged and supported to experience Baltimore to the fullest expression and become a proud citizen of this resilient and charming city.- Sunny



**PARKS &
PEOPLE**
FOUNDATION

Tasks:

- Staying motivated and organized in the 9-5 office setting and learning to focus on juggle multiple projects at once
- Creating 3 newsletters and creating a new style for future use including interviews with members and partner organization.
- Organized a Give-Away day for CGRN members, which included soliciting plant donations worth ~\$1500 from local nurseries and farms and picking them up.
- Advertised and acquired new membership
- Planned workshops with community partnership.



Community Partner: Digital Harbor Foundation

Intern: Andie Seabrooke

Site Supervisor: Steph Grimes

What Digital Harbor Foundation?

The Digital Harbor Foundation offers technology education to over 2,500 youth in Baltimore City

Working at the Digital Harbor Foundation has pushed me to change my way of thinking. From day one I was struck by the creativity fostered in the Tech Center. The creativity flows not only out of the students but out of the staff as well. At DHF no problem is unsolvable and no challenge is too big to tackle. I was amazed how the staff tirelessly worked to execute their vision for not only their space but for other organizations in Baltimore and throughout the country. They have proven to me that it is truly possible to follow your passions and make a difference along the way. However CIIP was so much more than just my work at the Digital Harbor Foundation. I have had the opportunity to build lasting friendships with many of the other interns as we explored Baltimore together. My summer as a CIIP intern truly opened my eyes to the beautiful city around me. It helped me to see Baltimore not as a city that I happen to go to school in but as a home and a community that I am proud to be a part of.

-Andie

Tasks:

- Compiled an educator contact database and executed
- Business development outreach
- Ran student lunch program
- Assisted with administrative tasks including camper registration



Community Partner: ERICA

Intern: Eleanor Layfield

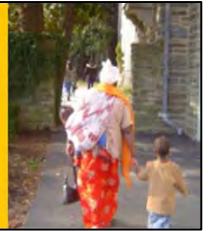
Site Supervisor: Betty Symington

What is ERICA?

ERICA provides immediate, practical, and material assistance to refugees, asylees, asylum seekers and other immigrants, regardless of race, religion, or language. ERICA partners with other civic, community, and religious groups to provide direct services such as casework, educational workshops, and referrals for legal assistance, healthcare, and housing.



Episcopal Refugee
and
Immigrant Center Alliance



Tasks:

- Helped organize silent auction fundraiser
- Created and conducted a surveys about employment opportunities for refugee and asylum seekers.
- Uploaded casework databases, re-designed website, and facebook pages, and created resource binder
- Helped clients find legal information and employment opportunities.



ERICA is a very small organization, yet it accomplishes a huge amount. Almost everyday I saw a new way in which ERICA helps people, whether through advising, housing assistance, or its family reunification loan program. My main task this summer was to research employment for refugees and asylees in Baltimore. I read about jobs opportunities and visited several other employment programs. In addition, I wrote and conducted a survey for ERICA's clients about their employment experiences. As I interviewed people, I heard many compelling stories about life in America. I was shocked at the myriad obstacles newcomers face to gain legal working status, find a job, and become economically independent. While the challenges seemed insurmountable, those I talked expressed their gratitude for ERICA's help in navigating these difficult processes. I am amazed and heartened by how much impact a small organization, which is willing to listen to what its clients need, can have. My time at ERICA has renewed my passion for serving refugee and immigrant populations, and I am eager to continue learning about them. I feel incredibly grateful to have had such a wonderful opportunity this summer!

-Eleanor

Community Partner: Esperanza Center

Peer Mentor: Silvia Mora

Site Supervisor: Bibi Hackshaw

What is Esperanza Center?

Our bilingual staff works with Hispanic and other immigrants to provide healthcare, social services, referrals, employment counseling, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and Immigration Legal Service (ILS).

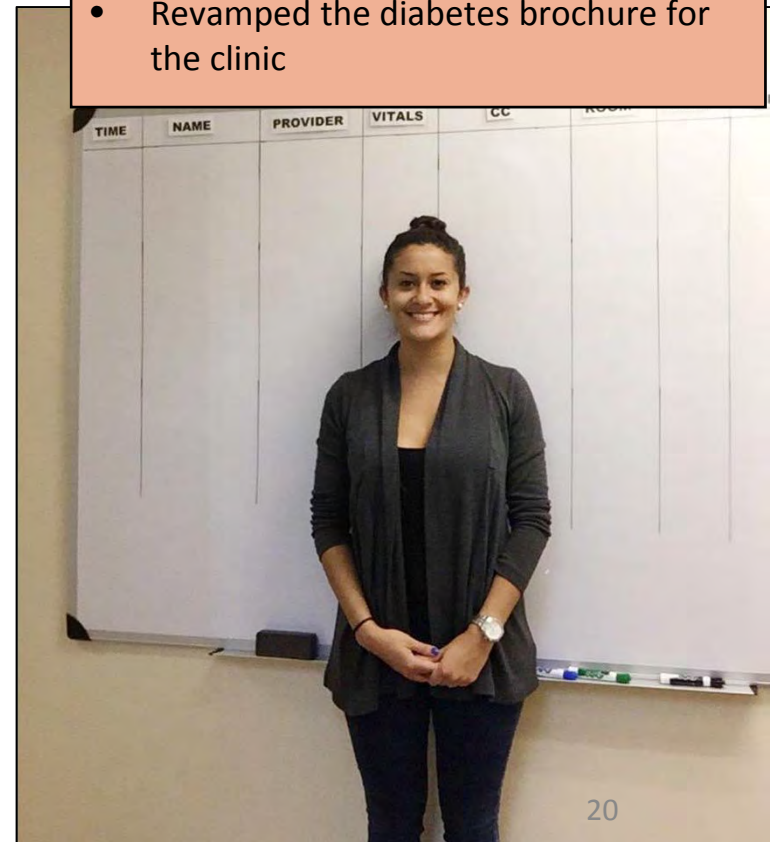
My internship at the Esperanza Center was more than I can put into words. The entire experience that I had was very rewarding. I became close and formed a family at the health services part of the Center. I developed great relationships with all my supervisors and the doctors that worked at the clinic, and also learned a lot from them. I had the opportunity to interact with patients that are both undocumented and uninsured. Listening to their stories, talking about our home countries, our families and our hispanic roots made me really feel at home. The best part of my internship was being able to qualify new patients into the clinic and seeing how grateful they were for receiving great medical care. One story in particular that touched me was when I met a woman who 13 years later was reunited with her 15 year old son who crossed the border from El Salvador. They were both so grateful to us for providing them with the medical services they needed. That feeling of being able to help others that truly need it, is the best feeling one can have and I thank the Esperanza Center for having given me this opportunity. I also thank the center for helping me learn about the obstacles that the immigrant population goes through, while giving me the chance to help them.-Silvia



Catholic Charities of Baltimore

Tasks:

- Helped sign in and discharge patients that came to the eye clinic
- Updated and reformatted many medical resources and forms
- Worked with the clinic outreach coordinator/TAP navigator to make an appointment.
- Revamped the diabetes brochure for the clinic



Community Partner: Franciscan Center

Intern: Charlie Green

Site Supervisor: Meg Ducey



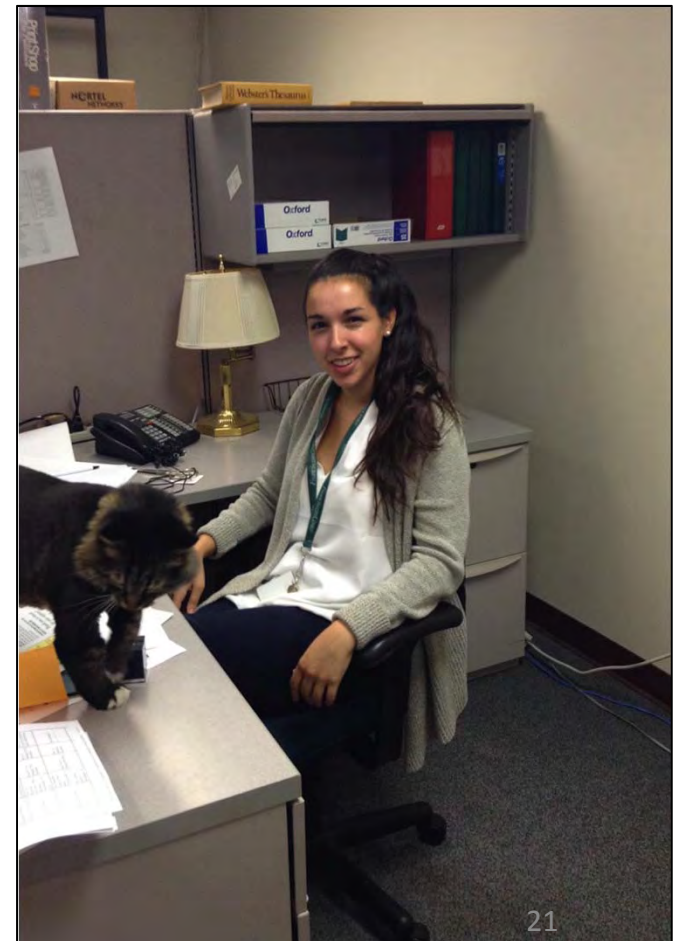
What is The Franciscan Center?

The Franciscan Center offers continuum of care, including emergency services, health services, counseling and technology training to help clients become as self-sufficient as possible.

Tasks:

- Assisted with marketing and networking for the center's Christmas in July donations drive
- Worked at the responsive service desk and assisted clients with eviction prevention, obtaining food, clothing and household items, as well as many other services
- Took the position of Volunteer Coordinator for a week, setting up the kitchen and getting volunteers ready to serve food for up to 550 clients per day.

The Franciscan Center has allowed me to see all the components that go into running a successful non-profit. As an intern at the center this summer, I was able to participate in behind the scenes operations such as contacting donors by phone and email, as well as client services which included responsive services, working in the pantry, as well as in the clothing shop in the center. I learned many skills from working at The Franciscan Center, as well as being in CIIP and listening to experiences my peers had at their sites.- Charlie



Community Partner: Fusion Partnerships

Intern: Simon Marshall-Shah

Site Supervisor: Keith Gavazzi

What is Fusion Partnerships?

Through collaborative action, including fiscal sponsorship, Fusion Partnerships, Inc. works to be a catalyst for justice and peace. Our vision for Baltimore is thriving communities with equitable resources, modeling collaborative processes and organizational structures which foster social justice, peace and love.



Tasks:

- Updated policies and procedures document to improve clarity and allow for easier program onboarding and compliance
- Researched and compiled a report on OSI Community Fellows with Fusion programs, reviewing their respective funding and expense patterns
- Designed policies handbook and various marketing materials

In June, at one of Fusion's Quarterly Program Potlucks, I had a moment of clarity: to think that at the beginning of the summer I felt I possessed anything more than a vague understanding of the scope and power of Baltimore City's nonprofit world was incredibly narrow-minded. Over these past eight weeks with Fusion, and with the CIIP program, my appreciation for the constant work that grassroots organizations do in this city has only continued to grow. Namely, my ideas on nonprofit structure have developed, as I have witnessed how, as a fiscal sponsor, Fusion provides incredible support to the grassroots organizations and programs that share, as community partners, the benefits of Fusion's 501(c)(3) status; this sponsorship allows programs to keep their focus and work devoted to their organization's own mission. Through my work in the office (which included meeting, talking with, or listening to the many, many people who flow in and out of it everyday), I learned firsthand about, not only the complicated behind-the-scenes work at Fusion, but also how this work directly translates to on-the-ground successes within these community organizations. Through the opportunities I had to visit program sites and sit in on meetings of conference-planning committees, criminal justice networks, and even the Fusion Board, my personal ideas on what makes a successful nonprofit organization have evolved to include valuing collaboration and consensus-building as a necessity in program development. Better yet, those I worked with at the office, who together support nearly 80 grassroots organizations, are some of the most humble people I have had the pleasure of working with; our work and conversations have helped me appreciate the importance of empowering those with great ideas to create meaningful change in the city we live in.

-Simon



**Community Partner:**

Greater Homewood
Community Corporation
(GHCC)

Intern: John McLaughlin

Site Supervisor: Ira
Kowler

What is GHCC?

Established in 1969, Greater Homewood Community Corporation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to build and strengthen vibrant urban communities in north central Baltimore City. Our work centers on the pillars of vibrant urban living: safe streets, good and diverse quality housing stock, quality schools, and livability. Much like the neighborhoods we serve, our programs are interconnected and bolster our holistic approach to fulfilling our mission.



For so many years I have been extremely interested in the issues I faced this summer - I have studied them during my coursework at JHU over the past year and have completed significant service work, but I always felt like an outsider looking into something I didn't truly understand. All of that changed this summer. Thanks to the CIIP program and the Greater Homewood Community Corporation (soon to be Strong City Baltimore), in only two months I was able to immerse myself in five diverse neighborhoods along Baltimore's Greenmount Avenue and make a large contribution towards an effort that will likely make Greenmount and its surrounding communities much more livable for their residents. I have learned an incredible amount of information about the challenges facing disinvested neighborhoods in Baltimore City (and much of urban America), the inner workings of nonprofits, urban planning, and community organizing. Due to the difficulty of the challenge I was presented with and the autonomy I was given to complete it, I was forced (in a good way) to grow into an effective professional, managing my own time as well as a team of five adults on various outreach campaigns. I was pushed out of my comfort zone, learning valuable skills in design and effective communication. Ira, my supervisor, was always there to help me up if I ever stumbled - GHCC's resources and people provided an environment in which I couldn't help but grow and succeed. Ultimately, I can't imagine not doing something similar to the work I did this summer later in life - educating and organizing others in order to effect positive change in areas that desperately need it.

-John

Tasks:

- Led and managed a team of five 19-45 year-old Americorps summer VISTA associates on multiple flyering campaigns through five neighborhoods along Baltimore's Greenmount Avenue
- Helped organize a series of events involving Baltimore City residents in the Greenmount Corridor development process,
- Designed two flyers, a survey, and a community input Google map

Community Partner: Greater Homewood Community Corporation (GHCC)

Intern: Jessa Wais

Site Supervisor: Lottie Sneed



What is GHCC?

Established in 1969, Greater Homewood Community Corporation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to build and strengthen vibrant urban communities in north central Baltimore City. Our work centers on the pillars of vibrant urban living: safe streets, good and diverse quality housing stock, quality schools, and livability. Much like the neighborhoods we serve, our programs are interconnected and bolster our holistic approach to fulfilling our mission.



Tasks:

- Assist the planning committee for the Women's Empowerment Conference
- Assist in organizing the BMOG Annual Cookout and Outdoor Movie Night
- Coordinate donations for community events including writing request for donation letters and making calls to local businesses
- Door-knocking and flyering to distribute literature about upcoming community events and campaigns

Interning for the Barclay Community Center has been the most rewarding, meaningful work experience I have ever had. In an office with only 2 full-time employees, I was given a lot of responsibility but also a lot of flexibility. Throughout the summer, we organized various projects and workshops, all with the similar goal of building a better, more connected community. I really appreciated the opportunity to work both in the office and directly in the community. This summer, we started two brand new clubs, the bike club and the architect club. We were able to gather a great group of kids together, and in addition to holding activities in the office, I was able to lead various field trips. One of my favorite trips was when we took the bike club to a BMX race, something no one in the club, including myself, had ever been to. While we organized many successful events, the highlight of my summer was the Women's Empowerment Conference. After weeks of planning and outreach, we had an amazing group of around 35 women attend. When calling each participant for feedback, women used words such as "eye-opening" and "transformative" to describe the conference. It was uplifting to see how strong of an impact one event could have. I am excited to continue some of the relationships I have made in Barclay, and definitely plan on attending the Third Annual Women's Empowerment Conference next year.

- Jessa

Community Partner: Health Care for the Homeless

Intern: Elizabeth Marley

Site Supervisor: Patrick Diamond

What is Health Care for the Homeless?

Healthcare for the Homeless attempts to provide free health services to homeless individuals in Baltimore

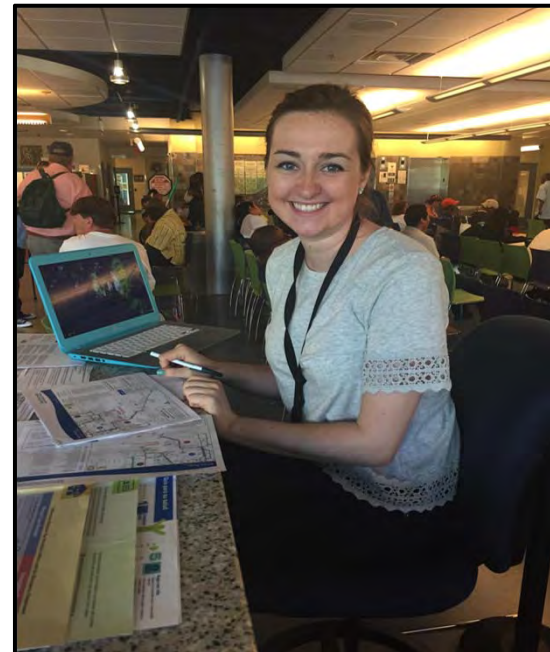


Tasks:

- Worked at the Help Desk to connect clients with these resources in the community.
- Conducted research on other health care clinics in Baltimore City
- Assist many clients sign up for a range of programs including case management services, addiction services, and housing assistance programs.

My experience running the Health Care for the Homeless Help Desk was truly eye-opening. I had the opportunity to form relationships with clients from all walks of life, and I was able to assist people with a wide range of issues, including finding transportation services, accessing financial assistance services, and finding emergency shelter options and food services for families in need. I learned not only about the clients who visited the desk, but also about the processes involved in accessing the complex services Baltimore City has to offer. This research gave me a new perspective on what it is like to rely on sometimes inconsistent services for basic needs. At times, accessing services for clients included long phone calls, long wait times, and frustrated clients and case workers, but the positive outcomes I was able to produce made this process extremely rewarding. Throughout my 8 week experience, I was able to enroll clients in transportation assistance programs, supportive housing programs, and addiction services, among others. While I was only able to make a small impact, I am confident that the research I conducted created a strong foundation to make the Help Desk an invaluable resource for Health Care for the Homeless clients in the future. Homelessness influences every aspect of one's life; it is crucial that individuals' needs are addressed during this period of uncertainty and instability so that the process of escaping homelessness can begin.

- Elizabeth



Community Partner: Historical East Baltimore Community Action Coalition Youth Opportunities

Intern: Bahareh Jabbari

Site Supervisor: Jamille Pitts

What is HEBCAC YO!?

In 1999, the HEBCAC Youth Opportunity Center was founded to address the education, counseling, and career development and training needs of out of school youth in East Baltimore. The HEBCAC YO staff also connects youth in need of other services such as housing, family support, and health care with partnering public and community-based agencies.



This summer something extraordinary happened to me. My work place became my happy place. I had been searching for this feeling for a while now- to get up every morning and not only be content with going to work, but to be excited about it. I have experienced this feeling of bliss and excitement everyday this summer because of my internship at HEBCAC YO. It has been a challenging, eye-opening and extremely rewarding experience. I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with staff members who put their heart and soul in the work they do and to meet strong, independent students whom, despite all the curve balls life has thrown at them, continue to work hard towards achieving their goals. I love that being part of HEBCAC YO means being part of a supportive family full of strong and diverse personalities. I love that my students encouraged me to challenge our education system and think of more creative and personalized ways to teach class, like playing hangman to learn about our solar system. I love how my students broadened by perspective and showed me that in order to be a good teacher you need to take the time to ask your students how they are each and everyday because you never know what sort of complications they are dealing with. I'm leaving this internship with way more than I ever expected to gain and I owe it all to the staff and students at our center.- Bahareh



Tasks:

- Substitute teach and tutor students in GED classes
- Organize, lead and/or participate in extracurricular activities like life skills workshops, women/ men's group, and yoga classes
- Fundraise and shop for dorm supplies for students starting college in the fall
- Supervise the Summer Food Program

Community Partner: Higher Achievement
Intern: Ope Olukorede
Site Supervisor: Nicole Phillips



What is Higher Achievement?

Higher Achievement closes the opportunity gap during the pivotal middle school years. By leveraging the power of communities, Higher Achievement's proven model provides a rigorous learning environment, caring role models, and a culture of high expectations, resulting in college-bound scholars with the character, confidence, and skills to succeed.

There are no words to describe how it feels watching my reading buddies, Jada and Jaylen, race me to our classroom, grab their books, sit down, and turn quickly to where we stopped reading last week. I am so glad for the opportunity, in addition to working in the office, to also spending time with the scholars this summer. Higher Achievement is more than just an afterschool and summer program; in reality, we are a family. We stand on 4 specific culture principles: Spirit, Collaboration, Respect and Excellence. If you wake a scholar up in the middle of the night and ask him/her what the culture principles are, you can be sure to hear those 4 words without hesitation. This internship, just like last year's, completely exceeded my expectations and unfailingly pushed me out of my comfort zone. I learned so much about the three neighborhoods we serve, namely Cherry Hill, Lakeland/Westport and East Baltimore and how much a program such as Higher Achievement that offers great academic classes and awesome field trips to the M&T Stadium, Downtown Sailing, and even colleges such as University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins has and continues to make a difference in scholars' experiences while only in middle school. It's also interesting to look back at when I just started at HA as a mentor coming in once a week for an hour to hang out with two 8th grade girls and help with any homework they had. At the end of the school year, I knew that there had to be more I could do to continue working with HA; I am so glad I took the next step and became an intern. I am certain that I will continue to be involved with HA for as long as I can and I cannot wait to see the amazing outcomes of this program in Baltimore!

- Ope



Tasks:

- Recruitment of scholars for summer academy and volunteers for after-school academy
- Planning summer academy (6-week program)
- Supporting scholars and their families throughout the program by planning field trips, family workshops and conducting survey evaluations
- Developing ideas for new ways to retain mentors throughout the school year

Community Partner: Joy Wellness Center
Peer Mentor: Anam Chaudhry
Site Supervisor: Kerry Martinez



What is the Joy Wellness Center?

At the Joy Wellness Center we offer programming in four areas: Movement Education, Healing Arts, Stress Reduction, and Nutrition Education. Classes include yoga, mindfulness-based stress reduction, breathing, nutrition, walking, smoking cessation, massage, meditation, acupuncture, and reflexology. All programs and therapies are designed specifically to create transformative, healthy, life-affirming changes in the lives of our patients.

Tasks:

- Help facilitate holistic health classes
- Assist with administrative duties
- Tend the garden

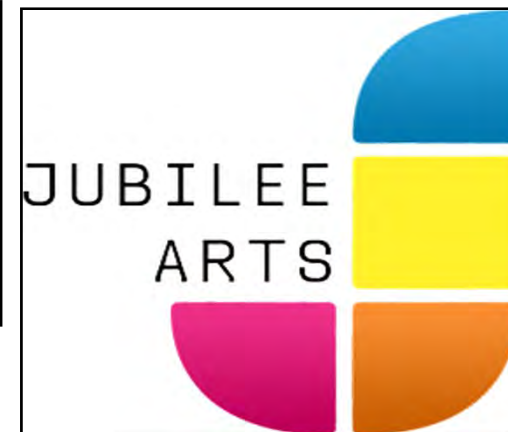


The Joy Wellness Center, combined with the Shepherd's clinic, aims to provide quality and integrative health care to its patients. The Wellness Center offers several programs that are targeted at reducing a patient's physical, emotional, and psychological stress in an effort to enhance their health. More often than not, patients who exhibit severe health outcomes are dealing with an immense amount of stress in their daily life. I was able to see this firsthand during my time at the Joy Wellness Center. In conversing with patients, I could see how these obstacles take a serious toll on their well-being. Many are trying to pay bills and make a living for themselves, on top of worrying about their health and affording health insurance. Hearing stories of patients who were denied medical care because they simply could not afford it was absolutely heartbreaking. Luckily, the Wellness Center shows patients how to handle stress in a healthy and positive way. I have had the incredible opportunity to hear about the challenging obstacles that patients face in their everyday lives, and watch as they enjoy and grow from the many educational programs that are offered. I will carry the lessons that I have learned from my time here on my journey towards becoming a physician. The Wellness Center provided me with the chance to see a different side of medicine that I otherwise would not have seen. The Joy Wellness Center is an amazing place, and I am truly grateful for this experience- Anam

Community Partner: Jubilee Arts
Peer Mentor: Kennedy McDaniel
Site Supervisor: Nora Howell

What is the Jubilee Arts?

Jubilee Arts is a community program providing arts classes to the residents of the Sandown-Winchester, Upton, and surrounding neighborhoods in Baltimore



Growing up in Baltimore, I was already familiar with many of the institutional problems that the city faces. Because this is my hometown, and I've benefitted from living here, I feel that it is my personal responsibility to support my community and do what I can to improve it. While I volunteered in high school, I never felt like what I was doing was enough to really make a difference. Being able to participate in CIIP and work at Jubilee Arts has been an incredible experience. This summer, I helped orchestrate Art@Work: Sandtown, a mural project where eighty youth who live in Sandtown worked together to create eight different murals in their community. This project taught me so much about the innate strength that Baltimoreans have, and our innate ability to work together, recover, and grow stronger. Sandtown was one of the communities most affected by the Baltimore Uprising, and seeing the youth come together to beautify their community was truly inspiring. The resilience of the youth I worked with not only made me proud to be a Baltimorean, but reminded me that individuals have the power to create change when we work together as a community. - Kennedy



Tasks:

- Helped plan, coordinate and supervise an intensive summer job program for Baltimore youth
- Oversaw completion of timesheets and paperwork for over 60 Youth Works students
- Chaperoned field trips to different artistic spaces with youth from the Sandtown neighborhood



Working at LBS for a second year has been the best experience of my life. After the recent uprisings in our beloved city, I was angered and disheartened. Since the first day, LBS has provided a platform where I can channel that anger into productive use. Researching issues of police brutality and anti-blackness allowed me to gain in-depth knowledge about the issues that are close to my heart. Beyond the research, LBS has taught me that you need to be authentic about your work. Working at social organizations are awesome, but do it because you truly want to. Thank you to Abby, Dayvon, Brion, Adam, and Lawrence for being such great mentors
- Dikshant

Community Partner: Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle
Intern: Dikshant Malla
Site Supervisor: Lawrence Grandpre, Dayvon Love, Adam Jackson, Brion Gill

What is Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle?

Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle is a for-profit, youth led think-tank and political action committee (PAC) which works toward transformative change on behalf of marginalized people Baltimore City. We seek to radically change the discourse around local and regional politics by injecting community voices into political conversations through policy research, advocacy, and community organizing from a grassroots perspective.



Tasks:

- Taught Policy Debate to over 40 high school students at Coppin State
- Assisted in researching budget of various city departments and the police department
- Collaborated with other organizations in community outreach events in West Baltimore.



Tasks:

- Create and maintain administrative documents for summer school: weekly newsletters, class lists, contact information, payroll, and assessment record sheet
- Provide resources and guidance to teaching residents, parents, and other visitors
- Meet with on-profit partners
- Helped design new website for school and recreation center

While most interns work with a handful of coworkers at their non-profits, I have the privilege of joining a team of teachers, administrators, volunteers, teaching residents, and other staff members at Liberty Elementary School. Let me share the story of one day surrounded by this group – this family – of incredibly dedicated individuals. It starts at 12:03 AM with an email from my boss, the school's principal. Just as I am going to sleep, he is on the job answering work-related concerns. Come 8 AM, I am just arriving at work. One of the teaching aides buzzes me through the main doors. She comes in early to run the main office, filling a need without obligation or fuss. It's an easy Friday at summer school until I realize that I made a mistake in payroll. My face blanches paper-white as I hold the incorrect paycheck. Rather than justly berate me, the check recipient immediately starts crisis management. Another teacher graciously offers to loan her the money until a new check is issued. Even the secretary stays late to call others from the school, checking if the paychecks can be cashed on that day either way. One crisis averted, I exit the school itching to make it home and fall into bed as soon as possible. Before making it to the car, I spot the school food pantry still set up hours after distribution with literal truckloads of fresh produce leftover. A handful of volunteers from the community follow the direction of a teacher to move the food inside. They look as baked by the sun as the wilting cabbages. We carry crates of corn until finally closing the school at 6:30 PM.

-Maggie

Community Partner: Liberty Rec and Tech Center

Peer Mentor: Maggie Johnsen

Site Supervisors: Joe Manko and Kim Trueheart

What is the Liberty Rec and Tech Center?

The Liberty Rec Center is one of the rec centers that was closed by the city and was taken over in collaboration with the surrounding neighborhood and attached Liberty elementary school.



Community Partner: Living Classrooms Foundation

Peer Mentor: Andres Hernandez

Site Supervisors: Maritza Dominguez



Serving the Baltimore-Washington community for 30 years

What is the Living Classrooms Foundation?

Living Classrooms Foundation strengthens communities and inspires young people to achieve their potential through hands-on education and job training, using urban, natural, and maritime resources.

Tasks:

- Planned field days which consisted of community outreach, donation & volunteer searching, marketing, and organizing a contact sheet of old and new partners for future outreach on other events.
- Helped with the 2015 Living Classrooms Patterson Park summer camp as a counselor during the week and helped manage Saturday Sports Club during the weekend, which is free sports and health programming for the community.
- Assisted with the GoTeams program specifically with the Enoch Pratt Library in Highlandtown.



Being matched with my site seemed like a match made in heaven to put it simply. Before my first day, I had high expectations and as I reflect on it now, the experience I ended up having surpassed them immensely. The responsibilities I was given truly tested me all around, from working more closely with kids, community outreach, partnering, planning and organizing events, and so much more. I was really nervous in the beginning but the workspace and the people I work with are incredible. I was not referred to as the intern and more so looked as an important asset. I've learned many things, but the most important in that it's essential to work with others to complete a big goal. I saw that many times and not only that, but the maintenance and importance of relationship building was seen all throughout. More importantly in my eyes, I was first hand able to experience what I wanted which was working on the ground. Meaning I was actually able to work directly with community and reflect on their needs and how I want to play a future role in that. Subsequently, it strengthened my future goals and allowed me to envision myself as an educator, which is a dream of mine.- Andres

Community Partner: Martha's Place

Intern: Ezinne Ogbonna

Site Supervisor: Linnet Williams



Martha's Place

A recovery program for women overcoming drug addiction and homelessness

What is Martha's Place?

Martha's Place is a program of the nonprofit Newborn Holistic Ministries which was founded in 1996 by life-long community resident Elder C.W. Harris. Newborn follows a mission to preserve and enrich life in its communities by providing services that will enable residents to meet their material, social, and spiritual needs. In 2000, Newborn began to address the overwhelming epidemic of drug abuse in our communities and created Martha's Place in direct response to the unmet need for long-term recovery services for women.

Tasks:

- Provided one-on-one job search assistance and training to residents in accordance with existing job readiness program guidelines
- Assisted executive director with update of database of resident outcomes
- Performed various tasks associated with the upkeep of the houses and efficient operation of the main office
- Represented Martha's Place in the community on occasion (at meetings, press conference, etc.)



My summer placement at Martha's Place was a tremendous learning experience. Part of the motivation behind my choosing to participate in CIIP this summer was my desire for the opportunity to break from the traditional monotony of the classroom setting and gain some hands-on public health experience in Baltimore. Through both professional and casual interactions, meetings, and asking many questions along the way, I learned a great deal about addiction, mental health and the homelessness issue in Baltimore. I was truly inspired by the resilience of the women I served and the devotion of my coworkers at Martha's Place. My CIIP internship has strengthened my personal stake in this city, increased my understanding of public health as a diverse discipline and reinforced my passion for the field.-Ezinne

Community Partner: Maryland Hunger Solutions

Intern: Lani Chung

Site Supervisor: Brooke McCauley



What is the Maryland Hunger Solutions?

Maryland Hunger Solutions is a project dedicated to fighting hunger and improving the nutrition, health, and well-being of children and families in Maryland

While my time as an intern was only but a short period of time, I can assure you that I am walking away with nothing but fond memories, and incredible experiences. Reflecting on my experiences at Maryland Hunger Solutions has allowed me to become more aware of how valuable this opportunity has been. I met so many incredible people, learned so many fascinating things about hunger in Maryland, and developed a heart for anti-hunger work. It was amazing to see how a staff of only six people could accomplish so much towards the goal of ending hunger in Maryland, purely through their incredible passion and consistent diligence. The people at work really showed me how important it is to love what you do, and to truly care about the issues you are advocating for. This is just one of many things that I was able to learn during my time as an intern. Another thing that I learned was how to be flexible and up for anything. Rolling with the punches and prioritizing tasks is a crucial skill for any intern, since we are charged with the task of providing support for the whole team. I also quickly learned about the importance of being vocal about questions or problems that might arise. Jump on opportunities to refine your understanding of the issues at hand, and know that your co-workers are (more often than not) willing to help. And while keeping all these things in mind, it is so necessary that you enjoy your work. Every little thing matters. No matter how small or tedious your tasks might seem when looking at the small picture, don't forget that in the grand scheme of things, you are making a vital contribution to the larger cause. - Lani

Tasks:

- Assisted individuals with applying for federal food assistance programs (SNAP).
- Translated various documents regarding SNAP into Korean to help accommodate to the Korean clients and communities.
- Managed the organization's Twitter and Facebook page by regularly creating posts and making sure that they go up on social media in a timely manner.



Community Partner: Mayor's Office of Human Services – Homeless Services Program

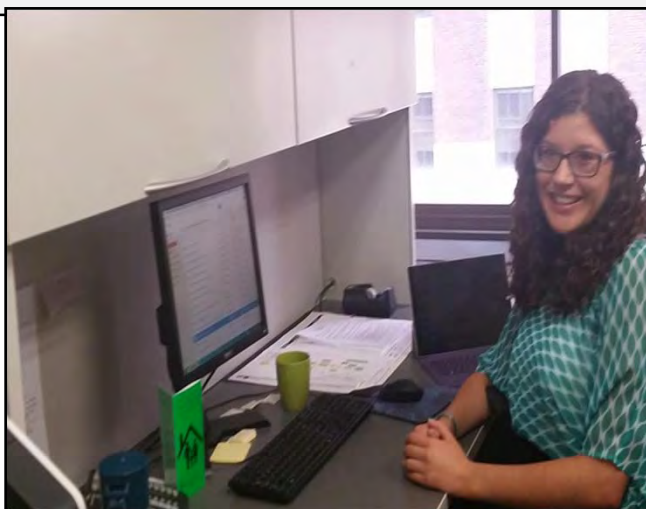
Intern: Victoria Aysola

Site Supervisor: Gabby Knighton

What is the Mayor's Office of Human Services-Homeless Service Program?

The Homeless Service Program deals with structural issues regarding homelessness and offers various programs for homeless individuals

City of
BALTIMORE
Maryland



Tasks

- Helped maintain Coordinated Access database, including providing technical assistance to service providers and improving user guides
- Processed clients' applications for housing vouchers and assistance with barriers to housing (such as security deposits and utilities debt)
- Assembled guide for social workers about assembling vital documents for clients experiencing homelessness
- Prepared certain materials for Youth Reach Maryland 2015, an effort to gather quality data on unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults

My summer with the City of Baltimore's Homeless Services Program proved to be both challenging and informative. I learned about the city government's role in providing outreach, shelter, and housing programs for people experiencing homelessness. I attended many meetings to see firsthand the collaboration of staff from various homeless shelters, housing programs, outreach teams and behavioral and health service providers in the city. Most of my work centered around Coordinated Access, a relatively new city-wide database that connects clients experiencing homelessness with permanent supportive housing (PSH). PSH is housing that includes case management, to help clients adjust to housing and to maximize how attaining housing helps clients live a full life. I attended regular meetings of the case managers and housing program administrators who use the database, incorporated users' changes into database records, and even provided training to some of the database's new users. I was nervous to train case managers on a system that I had been using for only a few weeks myself, but the session went very well. I also enjoyed getting to know my coworkers. It would be easy to become disheartened by the delicate role our office plays on several important issues and by the complexity of federal regulations that governs our work, but my coworkers did not let these constraints crush their passion for serving this important and often overlooked population.- Victoria

Community Partner: MERIT (Medical Education Resources Initiative for Teens)

Intern: Francisco Villa

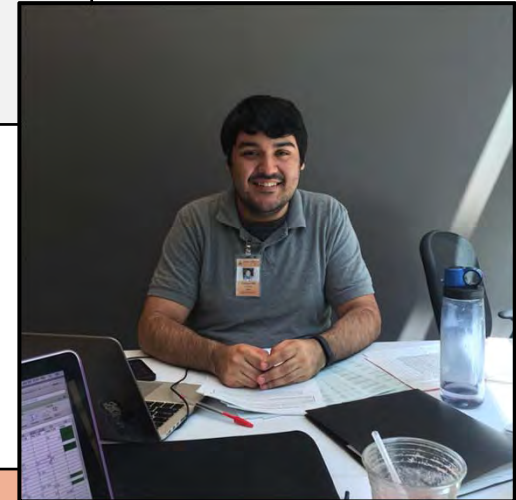
Site Supervisor: Tyler Mains

MERIT

What is MERIT?

MERIT aims to eliminate health disparities by transforming underrepresented high school students into health care leaders

When I first started this internship, I mainly expected to spend my entire eight weeks making lessons and grading assignments. That idea was completely thrown out the window on the first day when my supervisor told me that I had less than two weeks to completely design a curriculum for one of MERIT's summer internships. While the planning process proved to be stressful most of the time, all of the hard work and countless hours at the office paid off when I finally started working with the Scholars. I think the best part of this internship was talking to the students. Through some of their assignments and casual conversations, I was able to learn more about the difficulties they face in their communities and their personal aspirations to work in the healthcare field. To me, this really hit home since I also come from a low-income background; therefore, I could relate to their struggles and always encouraged them to never let these obstacles define their future. In the end, working with MERIT has definitely been one of the most incredible experiences of my undergraduate career. Words can't fully describe just how amazing it has been to be able to directly influence the aspirations of these high school students. I know that by working with such an amazing and dedicated staff, these students will eventually make their dreams become a reality and I hope that programs like the CIIP can continue to support these kinds of endeavors for years to come.- Francisco



Tasks:

- Designed a student handbook that included hospital maps and a 5-week curriculum with a focus on medical careers, terminology, diseases and healthcare disparities.
- Facilitated independent study on a health disparity project and taught Scholars essential technological and academic skills.
- Mentored and provided advice to current Scholars about the healthcare field, college application process and overcoming personal struggles as a first generation/low-income student.

Community Partner: Mount Royal Community Development Corporation

Intern: Hannah Farkas

Site Supervisors: Dale Terrill

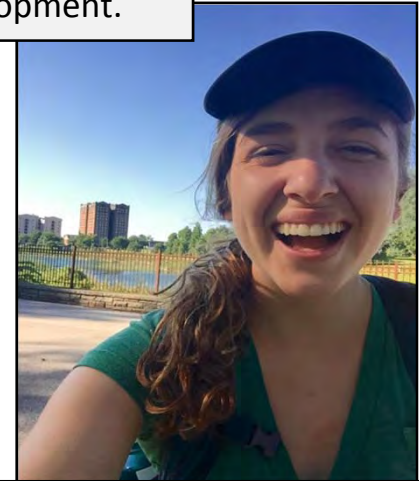


What is Mount Royal Community Development Corporation?

Mount Royal CDC attempts to revitalize the community through economic and social development.

I have always been interested in urban parks and green spaces, but my time with the Mount Royal Community Development Corporation (MRCDC) has made me even more devoted to promoting the sustainability and greening of cities. My focus was on a research project in Druid Hill Park, one of the oldest public parks in the country. I had the opportunity to learn about the rich history of the park and its surrounding neighborhoods and what it means to Baltimore today. Through gathering information, analyzing data, and working with the Department of Recreation and Parks and Friends of Druid Hill Park, I discovered what a large beneficial impact this 750 acre urban oasis has on the city, both economically and in terms of public health. I was also exposed to Baltimore's political scene which, although it may not always be pretty, did illuminate how much small grassroots organizations can do with enough persistence. However, it was my conversations with frequent park users and neighbors of the park that was the most valuable and solidified my love for Druid Hill. Hearing anecdotes of how people grew up picnicking in the park every weekend, how they remember when the now historic tennis courts first became desegregated, or how they ride their bikes with their children around the reservoir every single day reminded me why something so seemingly simple as a park is so meaningful to cities. I am extremely grateful for my time with CIIP, for both the opportunity to spend the summer exploring this quirky, fascinating city and meeting so many wonderful Baltimoreans along the way, and for getting me excited to continue my studies in sustainability at Hopkins and beyond.

-Hannah



Tasks:

- Survey access points and entrances to Druid Hill Park and contribute innovative ideas on how they could be improved to increase usage of the green space.
- Collect and analyze data on the economic benefits of Druid Hill Park and its current usage
- Create and conduct a survey in collaboration with Friends of Druid Hill Park and the Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks for frequent users of the park to assess how the park is used, its strengths and weaknesses, and gather information on what users would like to see changed within the park
- Contribute writing and research to a report and redevelopment plan for the park, based on the information collected from the surveys and data analysis

Community Partner: New Lens
Intern: Jesse Chen
Site Supervisors: Rebecca Yenawine



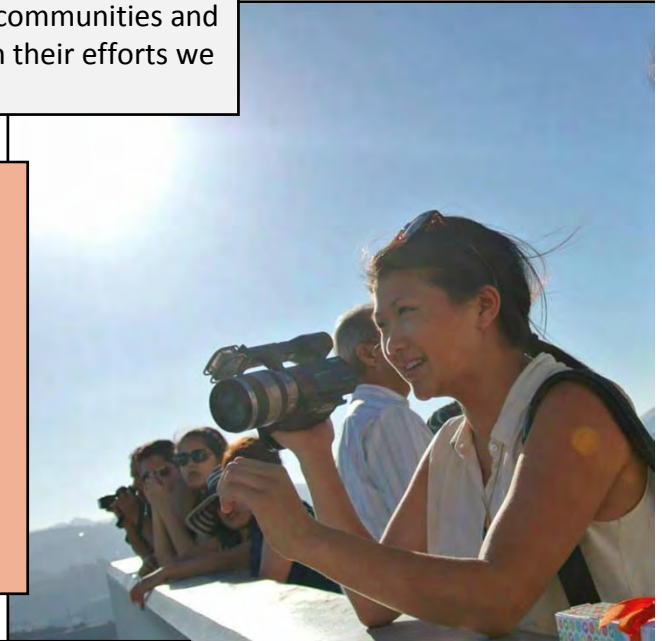
What is New Lens?

New Lens is a youth driven social justice organization that makes art and media about issues where a youth perspective can inspire change. We work on a variety of social issues including employment, justice, health and education issues. We produce art and media on commission, teach youth in schools and communities and advocate for issues that impact young peoples lives. We employ youth as leaders and through their efforts we impact over 200 youth throughout the year

Tasks:

- Created promotional materials for clients including videos and posters
- Assisted in shooting and editing, and producing the third episode in a documentary series called "Blackonomics"
- Led fundraising campaign by designing and editing solicitation letter to distribute among community members and assisting in writing grant applications and reports for community organizations
- Taught and mentored 10 Baltimore City youth (age 14-20) in shooting, editing, producing videos

Working at New Lens was an invaluable experience. My summer there as part of CIIP helped me grow and learn as a teacher, mentor, leader, and Baltimore City resident. I developed my own filmmaking skills while teaching students the basics of shooting, editing, producing, and advocacy. In assisting with our youth program, I expanded my own knowledge of the issues facing Baltimore City, and particularly the black community, and what people are doing to fix them. I also learned more about non profit management and development, and how many small things go into making a non profit run smoothly. Overall I had a fantastic, educational and fun summer working with CIIP and learning from and with my coworkers and students.-Jesse



Community Partner: Office of Public Defender-Juvenile Division

Intern: Sophia-pia Zombanakis

Site Supervisor: Mark Friedenthal



Maryland Office of the Public Defender
Justice, Fairness and Dignity for All

What is the OPD- Juvenile Division?

We are a group of lawyers, social workers, and staff members from the Juvenile Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender who have chosen to dedicate our careers to working with children in the Juvenile Court System. We believe that every child is deserving of zealous advocacy, and we fight each day to protect and defend our clients and their due process rights. Our representation continues even when the court case ends. We encourage our clients to stay in touch with us.

Tasks:

- Co-conducting interviews with juveniles awaiting their hearings or trials
- Assisting with development of defense theories and helping attorneys prepare for their trials
- Working on the “Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative” (JDAI) by contacting other attorneys/ DJS regional directors
- Observing hearings and trials, and transcribing

Working at the Office of the Public Defender this summer has been an unparalleled experience. Every day took a completely unexpected turn, making the past 8 weeks some of the best so far. Although I had engaged with inner city kids through tutoring programs in the past, I had never gained such an insight into someone's personal life. I was often left shocked and disheartened at a child's story. In the end, many of their actions stemmed from, or were accentuated by, unstable family dynamics and feelings of abandonment. The attorneys however, who fight for their kid's wellbeing, bring a powerful sense of hope in the eyes of both the child, and their families. My internship this summer has been truly unforgettable. I was able to connect many of the events that happened in Baltimore over the year with the people who actually experienced, and were affected by them. Through this experience, I have not only gained a better understanding of the criminal justice system in itself, but also a connection with the people who compose it.

-Sophia



Community Partner: Project Homeless Connect (United Way of Central Maryland)

Intern: Lalita Ganti

Site Supervisors: Scott Gottbreht

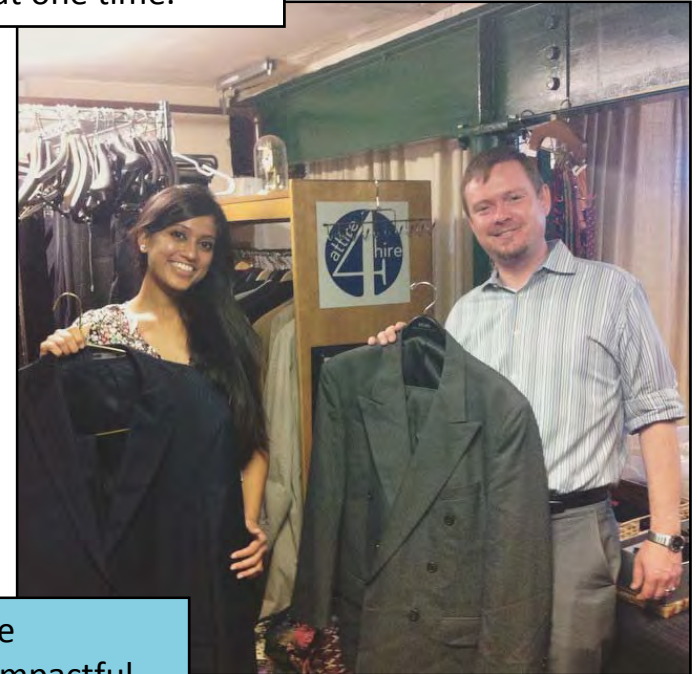
What is United Way of Central Maryland's Project Homeless Connect?

Project Homeless Connect is a national model for delivering services to the homeless community by bringing together services to meet every need into one place at one time.



Tasks:

- Coordinate and reel in providers for the Mondawmin Festival and Project Homeless Connect
- Plan the Mondawmin Festival (held by Major Stephanie Rawlings-Blake) as part of the core "Steering Committee"
- Create Mondawmin Mall layout for Mondawmin Festival providers using Photoshop
- Responsible for all PHC meeting notes and PHC outreach.



I can't even begin to explain how thankful I am to have had the opportunity to work with so many great people and do more impactful things than I ever expected. First, I was a part of the planning committee for the Mondawmin Festival, a resource fair for impacted West Baltimore. The event was meant to revitalize the area and the mall. This was a rewarding experience, as I was able to learn about coordinating all the services a person might need to get back on their feet, and help thousands of people in the process. I had a lot on my plate, but I am so glad that my colleagues trusted me enough to take a lead in the planning, and am honored that the Mayor appreciated my efforts.

-Lalita

Community Partner: Reservoir Hill Improvement Council

Intern: Matthew Brown

Site Supervisor: Eli Lopatin



What is Reservoir Hill Improvement Council (RHIC)?

RHIC's goal is to revitalize the physical and human infrastructure of Reservoir Hill without resulting in full-scale gentrification and significant displacement, including rehabilitation of deteriorating buildings; alleviating poverty and its attendant problems, including poor sanitation, crime, education, low homeownership, and unemployment; and making the organized, informed voice of residents influential and effective.

Tasks:

- Updated the interactive Tree Canopy Map
- Attended various community organizing meetings with both community partners in Reservoir Hill and the greater Baltimore area.
- Worked at the Whitelock Community Farm
- Helped to plan, prepare, and execute an Alley Cleanup Day with local community partners in order to engage the community as well as clean up and improve the health of the area.



Heading into my internship, I didn't know what to expect. However, I found my time at Reservoir Hill Improvement Council to be a unique and valuable experience I will never forget. From cataloging the more than five hundred trees in the area to working at the Whitelock Community Farm, my internship gave me the opportunity to engage in various areas of the Reservoir Hill community. One of the key things I learned through my internship is the importance of working together. Many of my responsibilities involved talking to other community organizations in the area in order to coordinate and execute both long and short term projects. The ability to have effective meetings and a consistent and determined group of people around you is one of the keys to being successful in the nonprofit sector. Another important asset is the ability to effectively communicate with the people you are trying to help. When you create a plan for an idea, you have to make sure to present every aspect of your plan to neighbors and other members of the community you are working in. By consulting with the people in the area and giving them an active role in the planning, you build meaningful relationships that build trust between your respective organization and the community. This is crucial because you need to listen to the people affected by what you are doing in order to make sure that your project never loses sight of its purpose: to serve and help the people and community that you work in. I am thankful that CIIP afforded me the opportunity to engage with a part of Baltimore I had never explored and would highly recommend this program to students interested in taking a more active role in the Baltimore community. - Matthew

Community Partner: Right to Housing Alliance

Intern: Kathryn Rees

Site Supervisors: Jessica Lewis

What is Right to Housing Alliance?

The Right to Housing Alliance is a human rights organization led by low-income residents. We're a partnership of community members, organizers, and attorneys working to elevate housing to the level of a human right and secure community control over land. Through direct action, coalition building, education, and advocacy, we're empowering new community leaders and building a movement to transform the housing system in Baltimore to value the principles of human rights.

Interning at RTHA has given me a firsthand look at community organizing. A major tenet of the organization that really resonates with me is building community power. RTHA measures its success not by the amount of money it raises or the number of people it serves but, first and foremost, by its ability to support community members as they band together to help one another. Listening to residents discuss their housing problems at community meetings has shown me how lack of safe, affordable housing can make all the difference in a person's life--especially in one's ability to keep his or her job. I've learned a lot about housing policy issues at the community-level and how they vary from city to city through the process of compiling a database of tenant organizations nationwide.

-Kathryn



Right to Housing Alliance

Tasks:

- Identify tenant organizations at public housing buildings throughout the country and organize a national call to build a coalition among residents and housing activists
- Compile a database of tenant organizations and other grassroots efforts that are organizing around public housing policy issues
- Survey residents about their experiences in Baltimore City Rent Court



Tasks:

- Serving as the intermediary between patients and their care
- Introducing the uninsured to better health practices such as Medicaid health management classes and medical care
- Working as a front desk volunteer, scheduling appointments, and running the administrative side of a health clinic.
- Treating all patients and healthcare providers to facilitate the healing process.



Community Partner: Shepherd's Clinic

Peer Mentor: Leon Chen

Site Supervisor: Glenda Skuletich



What is Shepherd's Clinic?

A unique non-profit organization providing quality, comprehensive healthcare to Baltimore's uninsured, helping people who are unable to afford commercial health insurance, yet do not qualify for government assistance.

When I first met Glenda Skuletich, she explained to me that Shepherd's Clinic was primarily operated by volunteers. As the rest of the day progressed, I realized how this model supported not just a functioning clinic, but a true medical home. I watched the doctors, nurses, and administration treat all of the patients with the utmost respect and care to best help the uninsured people of Baltimore heal. Although I did not see what went on behind the closed exam room doors, I came to value the importance of the front desk, as I served as the first and last person that patients saw. Therefore, I realized that every single person contributes to the experience of health, as I was directly responsible for setting the tone of their medical care. Not only was I responsible for administrative tasks like screening patients and searching for charts, I became the bridge between patients and their medical needs. Every day I listened to patients' concerns, translated their needs to the appropriate medical provider, and left the patients with a solid plan of action. Between the medical staff, health care navigators, patients, and administration, I learned how to efficiently and effectively communicate with all the people of Shepherd's Clinic to best serve the people of Baltimore. -Leon

Community Partner: St. Francis
Neighborhood Center
Intern: Raven Hammond
Site Supervisor: Torbin Green

What is the St. Francis Neighborhood Center?

St. Francis Neighborhood Center is committed to breaking the cycles of poverty through education, inspiring self-esteem, self-improvement, and strengthening connections to the community.



My experience at the Saint Francis Center has been a great opportunity to experience the world of teaching. As I approach my senior year, I am trying to discover what the next step will be after graduation. Having the opportunity to work with the children and staff and the center has been invaluable experience that I will cherish as I begin my professional career. The challenges that come with controlling a group of young kids includes getting on their level and developing a mutual respect. Children possess a spontaneous nature that makes no two days alike and that was the most rewarding thing about working at Saint Francis. I witnessed the compassion and determination of every child at some point and it was humbling to realize my impact on their lives.

- Raven



Tasks:

- Instructed a class of 15 3rd to 5th grade students
- Assisted and facilitated in the production of items to be distributed at the annual resource fair
- Assisted in grant writing
- Attended community meetings to discuss the expansion of the community center

Community Partner: STAR TRACK

Intern: Victoria Chen

Site Supervisor: Kate Bishop



What is STAR TRACK?

The STAR TRACK Program's mission is to provide leadership in Maryland on adolescent HIV health issues by:

- Providing comprehensive, interdisciplinary, individualized, and confidential health care to HIV infected and at risk adolescents and young adults
- Providing youth-friendly health education, prevention, and early identification services to HIV infected and at risk adolescents, young adults, and their communities



Interning at STAR TRACK this summer has easily been the most eye-opening experience of my life. Not only was this my first time working for a nonprofit organization, but it was also my first time extensively interacting with the local Baltimore community. I knew that this particular site placement would pose a host of challenges for me, and I still remember voicing all of my concerns and hesitations to Abby before the start of these 8 weeks. To no one's surprise, I was continuously shocked and challenged into stepping far outside of my comfort zone to work in this youth-savvy, sex positive, LGBTQ-focused environment. I soon realized that every day at STAR TRACK is a learning experience filled with wonderfully insightful experiences and its accompanying frustrations. From studying the ball culture to befriending people living with HIV, I discovered that the most important lessons were learned not through my work, but through casual conversations with my coworkers and community members. Not only have I become a more culturally competent person because of STAR TRACK, but I have also made meaningful friendships within the LGBTQ community that will far outlast my internship. -Victoria

Tasks:

- Conducted patient intake for HIV, and STD testing at the CTR clinic, community fairs, and health conferences
- Actively participated in Maryland Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA) meetings, which were aimed at improving access to care for the LGBTQ community.
- Assisted in the planning of the Youth Zone at Baltimore Pride 2015

Community Partner: Station North Arts and Entertainment District
Intern: Sarah Braver
Site Supervisors: Ben Stone

What is Station North?

By promoting and supporting artists and cultural organizations in the District, Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc. seeks to create a vibrant neighborhood where arts, artists and entertainment venues flourish in the midst an economically diverse community with an abundance of healthy residential, retail and commercial offerings.

Interning at Station North during the busy days of the summer brought incredible experiences. From watching Gaia paint a large-scale mural on the office walls of the Station North Chicken Box, to monitoring Loring Cornish's progress on his Change for the Better installation at the police box, each day was unlike any other. The greatest part of my internship, however, was familiarizing myself with the Station North district and its residents. I have met so many unique and diverse individuals who share and support Station North's vision of revitalizing the area and encouraging its growth through the arts and creative placemaking. Before this summer, I had only been to Station North once or twice, but I look forward to attending future events and continuing to explore the area.

-Sarah



Tasks:

- Assisted in planning and implementation of public programs, including events at the Ynot Lot, the Chicken Box, and the police koban.
- Created and conducted a qualitative and quantitative survey of residents to give stakeholders an understanding of the community's perception of Station North and their self-perceived values
- Helped manage communications and promotion of Station North, including composing a weekly email and performing website updates
- Attended meetings and compiled minutes for future reference by the executive director and participants

Community Partner: Baltimore Community ToolBank

Intern: Annie Blackman

Site Supervisor: Noah Smock



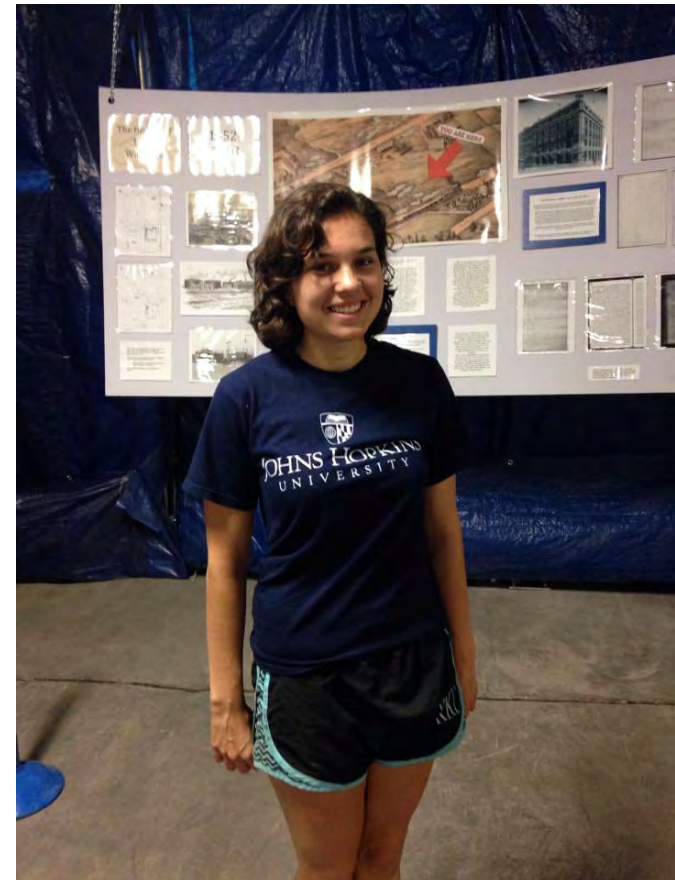
What is Baltimore Community ToolBank?

The Baltimore Community ToolBank wants to change the way our community does volunteerism! Only the third ToolBank in the country, the Baltimore Community ToolBank is part of a national movement to bring Tools for Change to Maryland.

I am incredibly grateful that I had the opportunity to spend my summer with The Baltimore Community ToolBank. I felt welcomed by the staff and grew to appreciate them more as friends than colleagues as I worked on my project. The atmosphere of the ToolBank is both friendly and fun and serious, as they understand the important role that they serve for Baltimore and the non-profits that utilize their service.- Annie

Tasks:

- I created four exhibit style boards that displayed the history of my non-profit's building
- Intensive historical research at various museums and institutions like the Maryland State Archives - Met with various members of my neighborhood's community to learn more through their experience



Community Partner: Thread
Intern: Desiree Herrera
Site Supervisor: Frank Molina



What is Thread?

Thread uses a “family-style” approach to foster the transformation of both underperforming high school students and university-based Volunteers into self-motivated, resourceful, and socially aware leaders committed to a higher purpose of their own.



My summer experience with Thread was amazing and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity with the help of CIIP. As a volunteer with Thread for nearly 4 years, I have had the chance to meet wonderful people, including a dedicated staff and supportive volunteers. The daily interactions I have with students and the ability to form life-long relationships has been the BEST part of my experience with the organization. As a Thread intern, I was able to work side-by-side with an amazing staff and a fellow intern to ensure that our students were employed and/or enrolled in summer school. As a team, we were able to provide our students with opportunities that equipped them with skills and knowledge they can take with them as they continue on their academic and professional journeys. The highlight of my summer was helping one of our students graduate from high school. For many of us, this seems like a simple task, but this student has faced so much adversity in his short life, including a difficult home life and incarceration. Despite all the challenges, he was able to persevere and is now a high school graduate! To be a part of such a large and special event in this young man's life is something I will never forget. This is just one of many stories and every day I was able to work with students, some I have worked with for years and some I have worked with for just a few days, but it was nothing short of wonderful every time. I have learned so much from each and every one of them and I am so thankful that Thread and CIIP allowed me to make an even greater impact on Baltimore City and our future generation. Thank you! -Desiree

Tasks:

- Locating summer employment opportunities for 60+ students through DAASI (The Diversity and Academic Advancement Summer Institute) and Youthworks programs.
- Supervising a group of Baltimore County High School student interns and Youthworks summer interns.
- Providing students with academic and personal support, such as helping them complete summer school and locating resources for independent living.
- Providing students with supplies and materials needed to complete their jobs and summer school.

Tasks:

- Preparing materials and conducting an orientation seminar for the students participating in the DAASI Summer internship program
- Serving as a liaison between the students, their internship employers, and their Thread family to ensure that they are made aware of the student's employment progress during the program
- Monitoring the student's job attendance and time logs and communicating that information to YouthWorks, which pays the students for up to 25 hours of work a week
- Facilitating paycheck distribution, conducting site visits, and general management of the program



Community Partner: Thread
Intern: Albert Chavesta
Site Supervisor: Frank Molina



What is Thread?

Thread uses a “family-style” approach to foster the transformation of both underperforming high school students and university-based Volunteers into self-motivated, resourceful, and socially aware leaders committed to a higher purpose of their own.

Returning as a peer mentor for my second year as part of the Community Impact Internship Program and as an intern at Thread, I knew what to expect going in. As such, I was able to use last year's experiences to dive head first into the work that I would be doing this year and learning how to better manage a group of high school students in their internships. The DAASI summer program places low-performing inner-city high school students into internships around Baltimore city including many non-profits and labs on the medical campus. The goal of these internships are for the students to develop professional skills, have experiences that may be cultivated into a potential career path, and for them to learn how to prepare verified resumes. My primary tasks involved managing the students' progress and going on site visits to coordinate paperwork with Youth Works, the government program that funds the students' work. What I found most rewarding about coming back for a second year to Thread was seeing many of the students that I worked with last year, mature into confident young adults and performing better academically in school. My experience this summer has motivated me to look into potential career paths that will help the community and motivate me to use my talents to help push others towards success. -Albert



Tasks:

- Assist the Director of Outdoor Recreation at BCRP in running the Biking and Kayaking/Canoeing programs.
- Assist in data collection of participants involved in the the programs.
- Conduct a report outlining the ways in which outdoor recreation promotes physical activity.
- Create a poster that outlines the recommendations for physical activity to be displayed at various parks in Baltimore City

I had the pleasure of working with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks' Outdoor Recreation Department this summer with CIIP. Through this internship, I have been exposed to the great amount of outdoor programming that exists in a city that I once thought would never have such thriving programming revolving around the nature surrounding the city. Specifically, I have become aware of how much of a difference these programs have on the health and quality of life of Baltimore citizens. This internship has opened my eyes to the importance of leisure time physical activity, and how large of a role Recreation and Parks departments have in encouraging such physical activity. This internship has helped me become more aware of the nature surrounding me at every moment, and it has given me a new, even more positive outlook on Baltimore City.

The internship started off with my site adviser giving me the opportunity to pick what specific programming I was interested in, and learning about the different opportunities available to Baltimore citizens revolving around outdoor recreation. I primarily worked with the fabulous biking program, and I was even able to help out with some of the boating events the city offers. Later in the internship, I was able to start my own project that I knew would have an impact beyond my 8 week internship at my site, revolving around how outdoor recreation programming promotes physical activity using behavior change theory. It was great to be able to create something that I knew would have an impact on the city even when my internship was over. I hope to continue to work on this project through the year, and cannot wait to get back out into the wonderful nature in Baltimore City.-Sirtaj

Community Partner: Urban Resources Initiative- Baltimore City Recreation and Parks

Intern: Sirtaj Singh

Site Supervisors: Ed Orser and Molly Gallant

What is Urban Resources Initiative- Baltimore City Recreation and Parks

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks offers services to Baltimore residents as it relates to recreation development.



Community Partner: Waverly Family Support Center
Intern: Ellie Roper
Site Supervisor: Rochetta Gordon

What is Waverly Family Support Center?

Waverly Early Head Start Center of Goodwill is a federally funded program for pregnant women and children birth to 36 months. The center provides comprehensive individualized early education experiences to enhance children's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. Pre-natal support and education are also provided. The program strives to enable parents to be the best caregivers and teachers for their children, as well as assist parents with meeting their own goals.

My internship at Waverly Early Head Start Center of Goodwill gave me the opportunity to learn many things that I could have never learned from a textbook, not just about low-income families with young children in Baltimore and the struggles they face, but also about the strong network of people that serve this population. I developed strong, meaningful relationships with both the staff and the families at Waverly. From assisting in planning and executing events, to developing a tracking system for home visits, to actually getting to observe the home visits, my experience here has been truly comprehensive. Every day, I had the chance to work directly with our families and build relationships with them. Working with our clients has forced me to reconsider preconceived notions about low-income families in Baltimore, and has opened my eyes to different sides of this issue that I otherwise never would have considered. I am truly grateful to both Waverly EHS of Goodwill and CIIP for giving me the opportunity to participate in such a unique and special program.-Ellie

Tasks

- Assisted child development specialist through planning events, data management, and enrollment of new partnerships.
- Created and organized an enrollment and attendance database and update information as more enrollments and home visits are conducted.
- Observed and shadowed family advocates on home visits assisting with PAT (Parents as Teachers) activities and interacting and building relationships with both parents and children in their home environment.



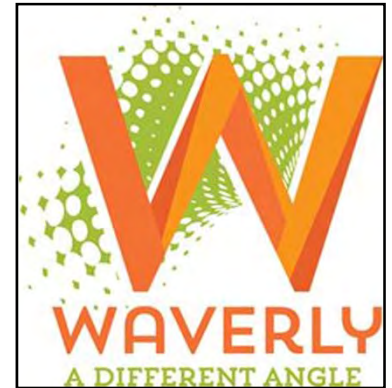
Community Partner: Waverly Main Street

Intern: Caleb Warren

Site Supervisor: Emilie C. Drasher

What is the Waverly Main Street?

Waverly Main Street is the local, historic shopping district located in the center of Waverly Village. Visit the Waverly Historic Marker located on the green median along 33rd St. west of Greenmount.



This summer proved to be a fascinating mix of establishing business relationships, planning and staffing events and attending key community meetings throughout the city. With a mission of revitalizing the neighborhood surrounding a part of the Greenmount corridor, Waverly Main Street immersed me into a world of small businesses run by local people. In the first few weeks, I went from business to business asking to speak with managers and informing them about community resources and the possibility of hiring a youth worker. I spoke with barbers, cobblers, technology specialists, hardware experts, auto mechanics, learning first-hand what business needed in the wake of the uprising and brainstorming ways to entice more customers. I learned that behind every small business is a face that worries about whether they are doing enough advertising or how their facade looks. WMS was very busy one week and painstakingly slow the next. A major frustration of mine was that small, one full-time employee non-profits like WMS have to spend a huge amount of time waiting to hear back about a meeting or funding or a form to be filled out. While I learned more than I could have imagined, especially going into this urban business work as a biology and philosophy major, I feel that the program and this placement would benefit from a 20hr/wk student work schedule at WMS. A highlight of the summer was planning and then staffing the organization's first Baseball and Brews benefit event at the local Peabody Heights Brewery. Over 100 people showed up for a Saturday afternoon of baseball, bottomless beer, a silent auction and a raffle. While staffing the event was a lot of fun, it also put into perspective how much organizational work and planning is needed for just a four hour event. From working with caterers, the brewery, sponsors and silent auction donors, we found that while it was highly stressful, it was highly rewarding. After receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback, we planned another event--this time Ravens themed--for the fall. I gained a lot of interpersonal and organizational skills this summer as well as really realizing the truth of the adage "If not you, then who? If not now, then when?" -Caleb

Tasks:

- Sought out, secured and arranged paid student work opportunities in Waverly for three Baltimore high school students
- Assisted in grant-writing and grant applications for over \$300,000 in funding for land acquisitions, demolitions, facade improvements, streetscaping and other projects.
- Helped organize and staff three 100+ person promotional community events and a community movie night



Community Partner: Wide Angle Youth Media
Peer Mentor: Darius Thompson
Site Supervisor: Sheila Wells



What is Wide Angle Youth Media?

Wide Angle Youth Media is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides Baltimore youth with media education to tell their own stories and become engaged with their communities. Through quality after-school programming, in-school opportunities, summer workshops, community events, and an annual Youth Media Festival, Wide Angle supports young people making a difference through media.

Working with Wide Angle Youth Media (WAYM) was a blast! Each day brought new, unpredictable, and exciting challenges. On Monday I was programming robots, making buttons, and critiquing youth produced films. On Tuesday I was submitting student projects to film festivals, scoring music for videos, and installing a photography exhibit at a local cafe. I learned how to be an adaptable and efficient worker as I developed a diverse range of useful skills. I also learned a lot about my community of Baltimore, the power of youth voice, and the impact of media on public perception. I commend WAYM for portraying such a genuine, positive, and uplifting view of Baltimore and it's youth in such a time when our city is often associated with the terms "riot" and "The Wire". It has been a pleasure and honor to contribute to WAYM's work. Check out their videos!- Darius



Tasks:

- Administrative tasks such as maintaining spreadsheets, answering and making phone calls, drafting emails and submitting to film festivals.
- Exhibiting youth photography at schools, cafes, farmers markets, and other venues throughout the city
- Helping run photography workshops for youth at local libraries and facilitating the summer video and robotics workshop

Community Partner: Youth Empowered Society

Peer Mentor: Sean Yamakawa

Site Supervisor: Mara Gibbons

What is Youth Empowered Society?

Drop-In Center is a safe space for youth, who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness and between ages 14-25, to get basic needs met and establish supportive relationships with peer counselors and allies that help them make and sustain connections to long-term resources and opportunities.



YES drop-in center has given me new insight on homelessness and many other social issues in Baltimore. I worked with staff -half of whom were once homeless themselves- to assist currently and formerly homeless youth. Case management (i.e. assistance on benefits, I.D., counseling, health care, etc.) was provided by staff, and was something I was able to help with. I was also trusted to hold down my own zones during drop-in hours, which typically only staff members are allowed to do. This gave me the terrific opportunity to make meaningful, personal connections with the youth. They told me their life stories, and I shared mine, and often we would discuss social issues in Baltimore over food and drinks.

I have learned exactly how difficult it is to be homeless in Baltimore. Even with the plethora of non-profit organizations offering assistance, homeless people's lives are riddled with so many problems that not all of them can be solved. However, they are born into a society that expects them to be content and persevere with their obstacles without adequate help. Imagine being 15 years old, and having to pay for housing, insurance, healthcare, food, and water without your parents' assistance. Could you have done it? Next time, when you hear about social issues of Baltimore, try not to turn your head the other way, and think these are distant problems. These problems exist within our very neighborhoods, right here in the heart of our city. I don't expect everyone to become an activist overnight, but please keep in mind the unfair reality of this situation. Progress starts with us.- Sean

Tasks:

- Assume responsibility of a staff member by cooking food for the youth.
- Updated youth data in client-track, and set up a new database
- Conducted follow-up calls to try and get youth to come in and provide update on their lives



Thank you to all of our community partners for giving our CIIP interns an amazing experience this year!



Special thanks to the 2015 CIIP Leadership Team. CIIP Assistants: Megan Scharmman, Dikshant Malla
Peer Mentors: Charlie Green, Maggie Weese, Ope Olukorede, David Mampre. Elizabeth Marley,
Saachi Nangia, Albert Chavesta, Faith Owihonda