



Yale Alumni Community Service Fellowships

a project of local and regional Yale Clubs

History

The Yale Alumni Community Service Fellowship (YACSF) program was launched in 1989 by a group of Yale alumni who, in response to student interest, began a paid, eight-week public service fellowship meant to offer opportunities to all Yale students to participate in community service over the summer academic break, even if their financial situations might not allow them the chance to engage in unpaid volunteer work. In June 1990, thirteen



students fanned out across the United States to fulfill fellowships; one single alumnus agreed to provide the funding for all the fellowships in first summer.

Since that time, nearly 500 students have participated in the YACSF program, with as many as 40 opportunities offered in a single summer. Many past fellows have gone on to found and manage their own nonprofit organizations, as well as become YACSF sponsors in succeeding years.

Structure

Yale Alumni Clubs approach nonprofits to determine whether they would like a summer intern, whose salary would be paid by the Club. Interested nonprofits submit applications detailing summer projects to Yale. Students review the applications and apply for positions. Once selected for a fellowship, students undertake meaningful assignments (see photos). In the fall, they write reports on their service learning experiences.



Success

In 2008, Alison Gilmeister was a Summer Fellow at KIPP's Will Academy in Washington, DC (not pictured). She graduated from Yale in 2009 and accepted a full-time job with KIPP as a teaching resident. Allison's summer fellowship laid the groundwork for her future employment at KIPP DC.

Impact

The YACSF is a particularly strong model because it serves to link several key constituencies into one program: Students, alumni, university administrators, and community-based organizations. For all involved, the relationship strengthens not only the general spirit of community service, but more specifically the good will of all toward the institution that facilitates the work, Yale.



Summer 2010 Yale Alumni Community Service Fellows

Alaska:

WEN HU: Institute of the North
EIAN KATZ: Renewable Energy Alaska Project

Connecticut:

ANTONIO REYES: Stamford Symphony Orchestra
JACLYN SNIKERIS: Stamford Hospital

DC:

BOLOROO UUGANBAYAR: Family Matters of Greater Washington
HANNAH JACOBSON: Capitol Hill Arts Workshop
TIANHENG (TIM) WANG: KIPP D.C.

Florida:

JESSICA LEAL: Human Services of Dade County

Georgia:

ANDREW BEZEK: Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Illinois:

KRISTIA WANTCHEKON: BPI
ALLISON HUGI: Primo Center for Women and Children
HANA ZEGEYE: TEACH – Chicago Hospital

Massachusetts:

LILLIAN JANNEY: Massachusetts 2020 Foundation
SABRINA KARIM: Center for Women and Enterprise
COURTNEY GRAFTON: Center for Women and Enterprise
KENNETH CASTANEDA: Urban Ecology Institute
DANIIL KABOTYANSKI: Urban Ecology Institute
ERIKA MANSSON: Boston Institute for Psychotherapy
MACRINA COOPER-WHITE: Boston Institute for Psychotherapy

Minnesota:

JOSEPH BREEN: Council on Crime and Justice

New Hampshire:

DIANA STOIANOV: Mayhew Program

New York :

SANKET KARURI: Asian American Writer's Workshop
KATHERINE PARK: Museum of Chinese Americans
MARGARET GREENBERG: 92 Street Y
TANYA FRIDLAND: IOBY
PAMELA SOTO: WE ACT Environmental Justice
JANE (REBECCA) HINKLE: Yale Club of NYC
ADANNA UKAH: Family Services of Westchester

Pennsylvania:

LAURA VRANA: Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation

Texas:

VANESSA CALDERON: Community Family Centers



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ALISON VIVINETTO: Renewable Energy Alaska Project

Connecticut:

RACHEL BIAN: Stamford Hospital

DC:

ROB WILLIAMS: Capitol Hill Arts Workshop
AMARTO BHATTACHARRYA: KIPP D.C.
ADITYA MAHALINGHAM
-DHINGRA Iona Senior Services

Georgia:

CYNTHIA DENG: Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Massachusetts:

TATIANA PISKULA: National Center on Time and Learning
CHARLES WATKINS: National Center on Time and Learning
ALEXANDRA WEBB: Boston Institute for Psychotherapy
JORDAN ASCHER: Boston Institute for Psychotherapy
MIRELA CLAUDIA VIRLANUTA: Center for Women and Enterprise
VICTORIA WESTERHOFF: Center for Women and Enterprise

Minnesota:

NIA HOLSTON: Council on Crime and Justice
DANIELLE ECKHOFF
-BENNETT Juxtaposition Arts

New Hampshire:

DIANA STOIANOV: Mayhew Program

New York :

JINJIN SUN: Asian American Writer's Workshop
CHRISTINA CHEN: Coalition of Asian American Children and Families
ZACHARY HERZ-ROIPHE: 92 Street Y
RENE BYSTRON: IOBY
CLAUDE DE JOCAS: GreenHomeNYC, Inc.
JULIA ROHRER: WE ACT Environmental Justice
MAYA TORAIN: Community Family Centers

Pennsylvania:

EMMA HILLS: Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation



Yale Community Service Summer Fellowships

Here are three reports by Yale students describing their experiences in the 2010 Community Service Summer Fellowship program.

Diana Stoianov

Diana Stoianov was the art counselor and lifeguard for 84 young boy campers at Mayhew on an island in Newfound Lake in New Hampshire. Mayhew is a special camp for boys who are "high-risk" students, selected by teachers for their potential for reform. The camp's program challenges the boys mentally and physically. Diana wrote,

Without a doubt, this has been the most meaningful and memorable summer I have experienced in my life thus far.

Living on Mayhew time, where each and every moment was dedicated to the boys and their well being, made me realize that that sort of time was the only type I ever wanted to experience--time spent living for others and not by myself scribbling away at some paper only meant to achieve a grade.

The phrase, "Mayhew...more than just a place" hangs above the community room in the Lodge . . .

Mayhew is where I learned to live in the moment, where I met 84 kids--most of whom would be my best friends if I was not their counselor by the end of summer, where I learned that I needed to be out of the classroom to truly learn.

Hannah Jacobson

Hannah Jacobson was an archive intern at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop. She interviewed a wide variety of people who have been involved with the Workshop over the previous thirty-eight years. She also worked as a grant writer and researcher and performed a variety of tasks. She wrote,

In an organization such as this one, everyone must really wear a lot of hats. In addition to my larger projects, I ran the front desk every Monday, curated an exhibition of art made by youths in a DC correctional facility, attended a number of board and staff meetings, filled in as a camp counselor, spent a day running a singing workshop for homeless youths in an outreach project, and did some website work.

Hannah learned that, underlying their arts mission, nonprofits are also businesses. She wrote,



Perhaps the most striking, to me, was the comment I culled from one interview: "It was all worth it because I knew we were creating beauty. But beyond everything else, this is a small business." That really stuck with me, because honestly, I went into this experience with a certain amount of unrealistic idealism about the possibilities of creating change. While I still believe in the positive impacts of a community-based organization, I am now much more able to manage my expectations in terms of the constraints implied by a business.

Overall, I found my experiences at the Workshop to be incredibly rewarding in that I really got to be involved in every aspect of the organization. I genuinely feel that there was nothing that I did not get to see, but even more, nothing that I was not able to *participate in* as well.

Jackee Snikeris

Jackee Snikeris worked at Stamford Hospital in Stamford, Connecticut. She shadowed and observed the resident surgeons and medical students. She "would do almost everything the medical students would do."

Professionally, I grew immensely during my fellowship. Having very little previous medical related experiences and opportunities, I knew I wanted to take advantage of all that I could while working in the Hospital. One skill I knew I needed to work on to accomplish this was my communication skills. A relatively quiet person, it has always been difficult for me to speak up and truly engage in conversation. However, my communication skills grew when I interacted with the health fair participants. Many of them had no idea of some of the aspects of the health fairs, like the importance or meaning of cholesterol and glucose testing, body mass index, and blood pressure numbers. Learning how to politely address some of their health issues was difficult at first, but grew easier with experience.

In addition to professionally, I believe I have grown even more *personally* through this experience. I can't say enough about the overall idea of the fellowship, how selected Yale students get the incredible opportunity to spend the summer doing what they find most rewarding to them, community service and volunteering, but also not having to worry about the financial burdens that may result. I think the fellowship at Stamford Hospital is perfect for someone with not a lot of previous medical related work experience, but has a true passion for medicine and community service.

Overall, the fellowship provided me with an incredible chance to aid in different aspects at the hospital, while also allowing me to further define myself and discover my true passions and career goals.