



Erie County Community Foundation 2023 Summer Internship Program

Our “Summer Internship Program” has completed its eleventh successful year in Erie County with six interns being employed by Erie County non-profit organizations. The program was started with the idea to introduce Erie County students to the non-profit corporate world and to attempt to have these same students remain in Erie County after graduation.

This 2023 summer internship program was made possible through grants from the Sam S. and Rose Stein Foundation, the Wightman-Wieber Foundation, the Murray and Murray Charitable Foundation, the Randolph and Estelle Dorn Foundation, the Mylander Foundation, the Sidney Frohman Foundation, Ms. Rhonda Watt, and the Erie County Community Foundation.

Erie County Community Foundation’s internship committee selected six Erie County organizations as host sites. They are Minority Business Empowerment Team (MBET) through ECDEC, Sandusky Library, Parkvue Community, Back to The Wild, Huron City Schools, and the City of Sandusky. This year’s interns are students at the University of North Carolina, the University of Arizona, Syracuse University, Bowling Green State University, Cleveland State University, and Cedarville University.

MBET selected McKenzie Harris, a student at the University of North Carolina to serve as its intern. McKenzie was responsible for re-addressing the organization’s goals and creating MBET’s processes and procedures. She assisted with planning MBET’s annual meeting and also with the Iron Man competition. McKenzie worked with Norwalk Economic Development Corporation’s RISE program and Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) by co-creating their business application.

Sandusky Library selected McKena Muratori, a student at the University of Arizona as its intern. McKena worked in the green room of the Library’s Digital Media Studio assisting children with creating their own videos. She was able to make an instructional video on how to simplify and better use digital video processes. McKena wrote and edited graphics and rewrote and updated the digital media studio’s rules and regulations. She also assisted with tours of the Follett House Museum.

Parkvue Community selected Claire Ceccoli, a student at Syracuse University as its intern. Claire assisted Social Workers with meeting residents, doing mood and trauma screenings, along with assessments for new and current residents. She worked with ongoing and transitional residents in the long-term care and memory units.

Back to The Wild selected Jessica Herchler, a student at Bowling Green State University as its intern. Jessica learned the processes and then assisted with the daily care of all the animals including owls, turtles, flying squirrels, foxes, butterflies, skunks, and eagles. These tasks include feeding, medicating, exercising the animals, along with working with the Veterinary Technicians. She also assisted with school programs and various group tours.

Huron City Schools selected Madison Zimmerman, a student at Cleveland State University as its intern. Madison overhauled and updated the school's website and re-created the brand and appearance for all communications. She improved the school's handbook, thus eliminating many duplications. Madison assisted in the transition of the administrative office from the old Shawnee school which was sold this summer.

The City of Sandusky selected Sarah Rhoades, a student at Cedarville University, as its intern. Sarah worked extensively with GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping software. Through this software, she located old water lines within the city from old Flip Books to assist the maintenance department with upgrading and/or replacing these lines. Using aerial photography, Sarah located all swimming pools (personal and community) in Sandusky to assist in selecting the best location for a community recreation center. She also used the GIS software at Oakland Cemetery to locate and update graves and old headstone data that are non-legible.

Erie County Community Foundation congratulates our 2023 Summer Interns, and thanks our generous sponsors for once again making this valuable experience possible. We look forward next year to once again offering undergraduates, graduate students, or recent graduates first-hand knowledge of the Erie County nonprofit community, its leadership, and organizations.

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