

ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2015 Summer Internship Program

The “Summer Internship Program” is completing the third successful year in Erie County with four interns being employed by Erie County non-profit organizations. The program was started with the idea to introduce Erie County students to working in the non-profit corporate world and to attempt to have these same students remain in Erie County. Two of the past student interns are still employed by their host site organizations while a third was hired back this summer for another internship.

This 2015 summer internship program was made possible as the result of grants from the Sam S. and Rose Stein Foundation, the Wightman-Wieber Foundation, the Frost Parker Foundation, the Randolph and Estelle Dorn Foundation, and The Erie County Community Foundation. Total grants received totaled \$16,500.00. Add this amount to a carryover from 2014 of \$4,803.50 and this program will carryover \$4,742.50 to 2016 with a goal of adding additional interns in the coming future.

The internship committee selected four Erie County organizations as host sites. They were the Erie County Health Department, Sandusky City Schools, United Way of Erie County, and Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center. These host sites were each given two applicants which they then interviewed and made their final selection. The four interns were from three different Erie County high schools and are students at Bowling Green State University, Cedarville University, and Xavier University.

The Erie County Health Department selected Bridget Brown from Vermilion as their intern. Bridget’s main duty was obtaining water samples daily from 25 beaches to check for E-coli, algae bloom, and other viruses/diseases and post the safety classifications. She also responded to residents’ complaints regarding mosquito infestations, found their nests and destroyed the larvae. Bridget assisted in inspecting numerous “Discharge Septic Tanks” throughout Erie County.

The Sandusky City Schools selected Zachary Meyers from Sandusky as their intern. His duties included implementing, organizing, and creating a “Principal Handbook” which the school district has never had. Zack organized the “Blue Streak Pride 5K” run which included obtaining sponsors and vendors and creating a 30 second commercial. He worked with the CFO in networking the NOECA computer system with all schools in the district. Zack also worked extensively on the Transformation Plan which is the school district’s 5 year plan.

United Way of Erie County selected Mary Murray of Sandusky as their intern. One of her main responsibility was running the Popcorn Wagon in downtown Sandusky as she recruited and trained volunteers to work there. Mary was the lead person in the “Stuff the Bus” program. She updated the volunteer database and created board displays and newsletters. Mary assisted in various programs including “Erie County Community Council, Day with Dad, and Elder Abuse.

Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center selected Lesley White of Perkins Township. One of Lesley's major projects this summer was in implementing an Employability Workshop for individuals recently released from rehab and jail. This workshop showed these individuals how to write resumes, fill out employment applications, dress for a job interview, and held mock job interviews. She organized the Recovery Walk in downtown Sandusky scheduled for September. Lesley also sat in on meetings with ex-cons and their probation officer and assisted in implementing a healthy lifestyles program for the recovering individuals.

The "Summer Internship Committee" has continued learning and working together to see this program grow and flourish. With continued work and collaboration with the local private foundations, we are hopeful to have at least five interns for 2016.

RW 07/29/15