



indianapolis
peace institute

Internship Highlights Newsletter

January – March 2009

Join us for a Semester, Summer, Bridge-Year or a Short Immersion program. The practical component of each program gives you the chance to work with partners like these:

Camptown, Inc: Have you enjoyed a wilderness experience? Share that experience with someone who hasn't. When you're not doing outdoor education, canoeing, or leading team-building activities, you can build up the structures that support Camptown by developing a field manual, seeking out a retail affinity program or carrying out event planning.

Interfaith Hunger Initiative: Join mentor David Miner in mapping the issue of hunger in Indianapolis. Who experiences hunger? Who serves the hungry? How many meals are missed each week? This research project will be used to fill the holes and reduce the overlap in services to end hunger in Indy.

Indiana Canine Assistant Network: Imprisoned women enjoy companionship and learn job skills training service dogs. Disabled individuals receive the support they need from well-trained service dogs. Interns get the chance to learn about innovation that crosses sectors to promote change.

Horizon House: Research showed that the average homeless person in Indianapolis walked over 15 miles a day to find needed services. Now Horizon House brings many of those services under one roof with an open, accepting policy of hospitality. Staff, interns and homeless neighbors are valued for what they bring. Basic needs are met so the effort that used to go to meeting basic needs, can be focused on other steps toward ending homelessness.

Southeast Community Service: A small organization housed within a larger social service agency, SCS staff has built a strong connection with a group of 10 teens and has committed to sticking with them for the long haul. This is an internship where you're guaranteed to develop close relationships with lasting impact.

Englewood Community Development Corporation: This organization played a fundamental role in getting immigrants to the table at community forums that generated a Quality of Life Plan for the Near Eastside. The momentum behind implementing the plan has been growing ever since it became a part of a successful bid for Indianapolis to host the Superbowl in 2012, guaranteeing the funding to carry it through. You can be a part of this exciting revitalization and make sure the community plan is bolstered by its link to the Superbowl and not lost in the excitement. There are opportunities to focus on affordable housing, small business development, transportation, strengthening families, education and more.

Refugee Resource and Research Institute: Refugees arriving to Indianapolis often need food, shelter and orientation to get through the first phase of adjustment. Maria Figueroa knows they need something more to approach a more complete adjustment. Maria specializes in finding ways to help refugees keep their identity intact while searching out areas for integration. Sometimes that means talking to a local farmer about offering some land to Karen refugee farmers. Sometimes it means paying for art classes for Iraqi children. Sometimes it means undertaking research to provide better services. An intern here will learn both the small details and the big picture of refugee issues and human rights while reaching out in a very human way to newcomers.

Art with a Heart: The staff of Art with a Heart uses creative processes to catalyze the development of youth into productive, successful members of their communities. They have developed a curriculum and connections with schools and service providers to realize this objective. Interns can work directly with young people on art projects or learn about non-profit administration by taking part in the dynamic activities at the office.

Global Peace Initiatives: One programmatic strategy for Global Peace Initiatives is to conduct an assessment around the concept of positive peace. What level of awareness of positive peace exists in Indianapolis? What assets does the community have that can be leveraged to creating more positive peace? Interns can give energy and direction to this assessment or be a part of existing programs such as Peace Gardens or Peace Hikes.