



Summer Colleagues Enjoy Real-Life Workplace Experiences

This week's Feel Good Friday is unlike any you have ever read. It's all about our United Way Summer Colleagues, otherwise known as our interns.

For many years, United Way of Delaware has recognized that summer matters. In addition to our many initiatives for young people that we've talked about in this space for the previous three weeks, we also have a robust summer experience for high school and college students to help prepare them to be the workforce of tomorrow. We bring eager high school and college students onto our staff and give them real-world experiences in business.



Internships significantly contribute to students' personal and professional growth. Hands-on learning experiences offer opportunities to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the real world. Internships develop soft skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management. Internships also help students identify their strengths, realize areas for improvement, and help them find their voice and passion.

This edition of Feel Good Friday shows an example of what young people can do when given the opportunity to stretch and thrive. I extend my thanks to all of the Interns and wish them all the best in the future.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle A. Taylor, Ed.D.
President and CEO
United Way of Delaware

Why Summer Internships Matter

By Mariah Carr

United Way of Delaware's Summer Youth Career Development Experience provides high school and college students the opportunity to build hands-on experience, community awareness, and professional exposure over twelve weeks.



I have seen firsthand the impact that our Career Development Experience has had on young adults this summer. Many of our interns have improved their interpersonal communication skills while working together on big projects. They've eagerly taken the initiative to build connections among themselves and our partners.

Through our conversations, I know that each intern has gained a valuable skill, received invaluable advice, or acquired a new perspective they will apply throughout their journey. I am proud of the growth, passion, and leadership cultivated throughout the program. I know that the present and our future are bright because of these young people.

To the 2023 Summer Interns:

I am so glad we met. I am proud of every one of you. You've taken every assignment, challenge, and opportunity gracefully and enthusiastically. I am proud of all the work that's been done, big or small. I appreciate the laughs and fun energy you brought to the office daily. I appreciate all the hard work done for this organization. You all have brilliant minds, and I know you will succeed at anything you do!

Love,
Mariah

Meet the 2023 United Way of Delaware Summer Colleagues, Our Interns

Naomi Allen (Community Engagement Intern)

Naomi is 15 years old and a Sanford High School rising sophomore. She enjoys playing basketball and reading. She has a career interest in Data Science.

"The best part of the Intern Experience has been building connections through the various trips and volunteering."



Anna Girardi (Marketing Intern)

At age 19, Anna is a West Virginia University rising sophomore. Her career interest is Forensic and Investigative Science. She

enjoys playing lacrosse and reading *Medical Examiner*.

"The best thing about the United Way of Delaware Intern experience has been building connections through our various trips. I've enjoyed being able to participate in UWDE events like the Poverty Simulation. I also love being able to work with my coworkers every day."



Nysier Judkins (Education, Philanthropy Intern)

A South Carolina State University rising sophomore, Nysier, 19, is a Political Science Major and Pre-Law Minor. His favorite things to do are spending time with family and friends and going to church. His career goal is to be a Lawyer and possibly go into politics.

"This internship was truly one for the books. I really enjoyed working with my fellow brothers and sisters who have now become close friends of mine. I also enjoyed working for United Way of Delaware and can't wait for next year."



Tyrone Kearsse (Marketing Intern)

A University of Delaware rising freshman, Tyrone, 19, is interested in Fashion Merchandising and Marketing. His interests include Modeling and Creative Directing/Planning of Fashion Events. He aims to become the Executive Creative Director of a Designer House.

"The best part of the United Way of Delaware Internship this year has been making connections with my fellow interns, as well as the various trips and opportunities that have been given to us."



Aramis Lopez (Community Engagement Intern)

Aramis is a 16-year-old A.I. DuPont High School rising Junior. He enjoys watching movies and playing games with friends. He wants to work as a Director and Producer.

"My favorite parts of this year were working the cameras at DETV and our trip to Legislative Hall. The trips were very engaging and informative."



Kenneth Norwood (Outcomes & Impact/Education Intern)

Kenneth is a 20-year-old Trinity College rising sophomore majoring in Political Science. He enjoys listening to music and collecting

cologne. His career goal is Law or Politics
"My favorite part of the United Way of Delaware Intern experience has been visiting Legislative Hall to learn more about Delaware's Legislature. It helped me realize that our Legislators are regular people."



Anaya Patterson (Finance Intern)

A rising junior Marketing major at Delaware State University, 20-year-old Anaya wants to work in photography and fashion as an entrepreneur.

"The best part about the intern experience has been the familiar and comfortable atmosphere amongst the entire organization. I enjoyed the visits to DETV and am looking forward to the upcoming Mill Summit."



Mya Joy Reeves (Marketing Intern)

Mya is a 19-year-old University of Maryland Eastern Shore rising sophomore majoring in Business Administration. She enjoys dancing and reading. Her career goal is to be a non-profit owner helping victims of abuse.

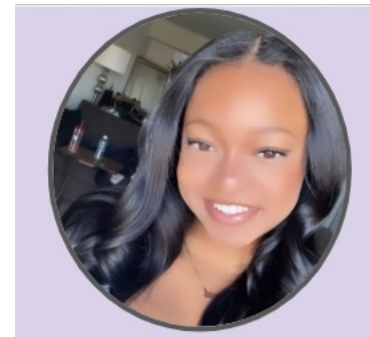
"I had anticipated a 9-to-5 office job filled with monotonous tasks. However, my experience as an intern at United Way shattered that misconception. Not only did I find connections in my desired profession, but I also discovered the joy of having an office job and creating a work family. I had the chance to dip my toes into the exciting marketing world, igniting a spark of inspiration within me."



Sianni Jervey-Starkey (Education Intern)

Sianni is an incoming senior at Mount Pleasant High School. She hopes to go to school for Education and become an Elementary School Teacher. Her favorite part about being an intern was connecting with children and finding what helps them learn the best.

"This summer I learned patience, how to handle behavioral issues regarding children, and how to best manage environmental and emotional factors."



Savannah Goff (DRJC Intern)

Savannah is recent graduate of the University of Delaware's Honors College with a BA in Public Policy as well as a double minor in Energy & Environmental Policy and Sustainable Apparel and Textile Innovation. I began working with the

DRJC for my senior Capstone project at UD and connected with both the staff and mission of the organization. It has been a vastly rewarding experience working under such a dedicated and determined team this summer and I will take the lessons I have learned from this internship with me in my future career endeavors.

"I am so grateful to be interning with the DRJC this summer. Through this experience I have been able to take a closer look at meaningful advocacy work and truly understand what it takes to make change happen both socially and politically!"



Summer intern not pictured: Nekayla Cannon-Stokes (Education Intern)

UWDE Interns Appear on DETV



Taking Over DETV

United Way of Delaware's summer interns discussed the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions on DETV, Comcast channel 28 in Delaware. The students, who range in age from high school to college, conducted an interesting dialogue in front of the camera and also participated in the filming and production of the show. [Watch the full episode here.](#)



Interns Learn About State Government

Summer interns enjoyed a special tour of Legislative Hall in Dover, Delaware. The group learned the history of the building as well as the inner workings of the State of Delaware government. The interns had lunch with Sen. Marie Pinkney, Rep. Sophie Phillips, Rep. Paul Baumbach, Rep. Eric Morrison, Rep. Larry Lambert, and Rep. Sherry Dorsey Walker. Thank you for the great insights.



Challenging Preconceived Notions About Poverty

By Anna Girardi

I had an incredibly insightful experience participating in the poverty simulations that United Way held this summer. Attending a poverty simulation is meant to be an eye-opening and transformative experience—offering a profound view into the challenges faced by individuals living in poverty. Stepping into the shoes of others allowed me, and hopefully the rest of the participants, to see the world through a different lens, cultivating empathy and understanding for the struggles many endure daily. What I think is truly important is that it highlights the interconnected nature of poverty, encompassing housing, food, healthcare, and more — how all our systems can work for or against the members of our communities and how

difficult it can be to not just overcome poverty, but just to live in it every day.

I was proud to be a part of these simulations. You can see and feel the change in people's perspective after the experience. It made me realize how much good United Way does for the community in being one of the organizations that is working for the people of Delaware each day.



A Peek into Tomorrow's Technology

Chemours recently hosted us at their worldwide discovery hub in Newark, Delaware. In a tour of the research center, we were given a glimpse of cutting-edge technology and products that were still in the developmental stage. Scientists in the various laboratories gave us overviews of their job duties, insights and career advice. It was fascinating to see the products of tomorrow today. We thank the hosts at Chemours for their time and engaging tour.



Making Positive Change at Friendship House

By Naomi Allen

A couple of weeks ago we traveled to the Friendship House to volunteer at

their clothing bank. We helped bring in new deliveries and sort the donated clothes. We learned about what kind of things we should and should not donate, and I loved seeing the types of clothes and shoes people would give. We got to meet the director and staff of the clothing bank. I admired how hard the staff works to make sure they can provide for as many people as they can as well as the fact that the bank only hires females until they can find longer-lasting jobs. After we finished sorting the clothes, we talked about how the people receiving the clothing might feel and how they do not always feel happy because of their limited options. It was really great to volunteer and help make a positive change in the community.

The Impact of a Nonprofit

By Nysier Judkins

First, let me start by saying that I am so grateful for this opportunity to talk about the impact that this nonprofit by the name of United Way of Delaware has had on my life, not just as an intern but as a young person.



It began when I first started at United Way of Delaware when I was 16 years old. I was a shy little boy from Wilmington looking for a place to work and better my skills -- the skills needed to take me far in life and align the skills with the dreams and goals that I have planned for myself.

Who would've ever thought that I would be standing here today celebrating 5 years? I can truly say I don't know where I would be without United Way, especially the extra support and guidance I have received from Dr. Michelle Taylor. United Way's staff and partners welcomed me with open arms. They have taken me in as one of theirs, be it a child, brother, grandson, or nephew.

It's all because of the impact this place has on my life. I look at the United Way as a blessing from God because God knows how much I love to help people get to where I am or even farther. This impact I'm talking about here changes lives for the better! It helps shape and mold you into the person you want to be. It opens your eyes to new and exciting things, opportunities, and people.

There is so much I've learned from this place, from connecting with legislators and community-based organizations to finding my inner-strength and willingness to help even when I didn't have the strength or energy to do it.

Over the past five years, I have worn many hats:

- Fundraised with the Philanthropy & Engagement Team
- Worked with the Executive Leadership Team
- Helped with meeting the needs of Delawareans through Delaware 211
- Created two service-learning projects

- Supported the Community Engagement Team
- Created safe spaces for students' voices and leadership (Youth Summits and Pride Podcast), encouraging students to find and use their voices to advocate for changes in policies and practices
- Supported the LatinX community

I value being a part of this great internship program and the opportunities afforded to me, being able to have the opportunity to use my voice, skills, and talents to help make a difference in Delaware, this place I call home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**ATENCIÓN
PERSONAS
EMPRENDEDORAS
EN DELAWARE:**

¡Regístrese hoy y
haga oír su voz!

Sus conocimientos son valiosos y pueden ayudarnos a mejorar la experiencia de acceso a recursos del estado para emprendimientos. Sus respuestas permanecerán confidenciales y anónimas.

Utilice el enlace para registrarse y participar en un grupo de enfoque pagado para compartir sus pensamientos sobre el asunto.

El grupo focal para emprendimientos tendrá lugar el 3 de agosto de 2023 de 12:00 a 1:30 P.M.



<https://bit.ly/3pRwlPz>



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Register to attend by Calling 2-1-1, Press 4

August 12th Dover Library 35 Loockerman Plaza Dover, DE 19901 12-2pm	August 26th North Wilmington Library 3400 N Market Street Wilmington, DE 19802 11:30-1:30pm
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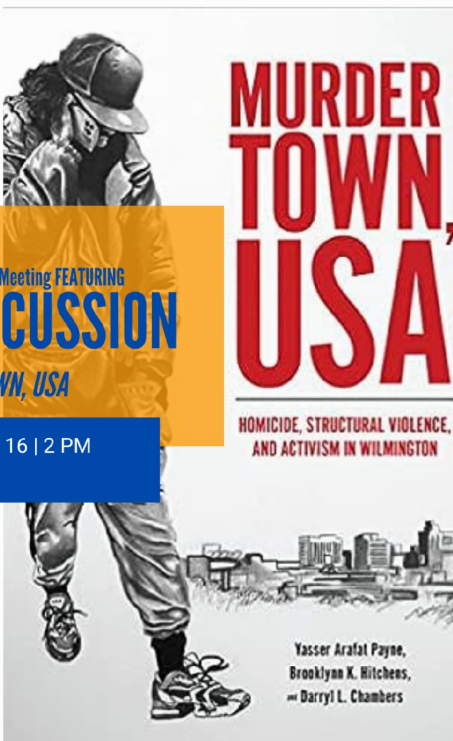


Help us reach our
goal!



On Monday, August 7, a powerful storm knocked down trees and damaged homes and property in the Brookside, Todd Estates, and Cherokee Woods neighborhoods of Newark. For those neighbors affected by this storm, Delaware 2-1-1 is here to help. If you need any assistance – for example, help with food, utilities, or insurance claims – dial 2-1-1 on your mobile phone or visit delaware211.org.

Learn




DRJC Criminal Justice August Meeting **FEATURING**
BOOK DISCUSSION
MURDER TOWN, USA

Wed | AUG 16 | 2 PM
Zoom

Join authors Dr. Yasser Payne, UD professor; Darryl Chambers, Center for Structural Equity; and Brooklynn Hitchens, UMD Asst professor to discuss their new book, *Murder Town, USA: Homicide, Structural Violence, and Activism in Wilmington*.

JOIN US ON 8/16 @ 2PM USING THIS LINK

bit.ly/DRJCCJ



Join the Zoom on
8/16

Support Our Work

Live United!

If you would like to support our efforts to help build a better Delaware, please donate to United Way of Delaware [here](#). You can make a one-time donation or a recurring monthly contribution. When you give to the United Way of Delaware you're joining individuals and organizations who are working together to improve life for everyone in Delaware and Salem County (NJ). We appreciate your support.



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