



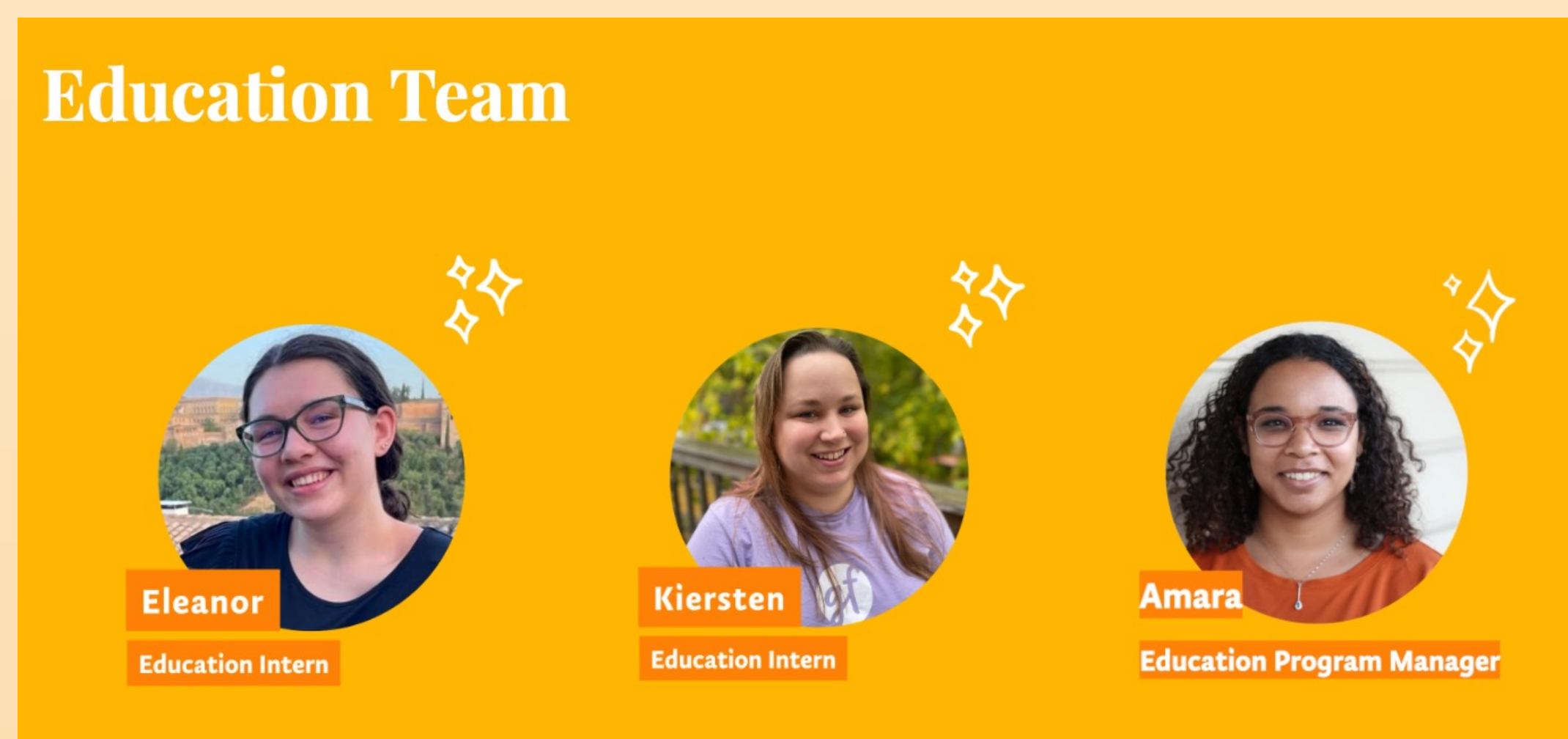
Learning From Each Other: Education Programming for Refugee Girls

Eleanor Friel, B.S. ENVS & B.A. SPAN
Social Justice Internship Program



Teamwork Strategies:

There were three of us on the GirlForward Education team during the 2022-2023 school year, Amara, the Education Program Manager, and two interns, Kiersten and I. We worked together on facilitating tutoring both on zoom and in-person, interviewing new tutors, keeping attendance, and writing the newsletter. My supervisor Amara was exceptional at providing guidance while allowing us to be independent and creative in our roles. The main strategies that enhanced teamwork in the Education Department were open communication, support, and positive energy. We could adjust deadlines, ask for support or guidance on anything, and enjoy our time together in the Chicago space.



Tutoring Strategies:

While at GirlForward, I also got to participate in the education program as a tutor. Tutoring at GirlForward takes place both in person at our Chicago location and virtually. I got to participate in both types of tutoring, with different girls. I learned a lot from my supervisor and from the girls about tutoring.

What I learned from facilitating and participating in tutoring:

- There are infinite ways to learn from each other
- Tutoring is a valuable community asset
- Communication goes beyond translating words

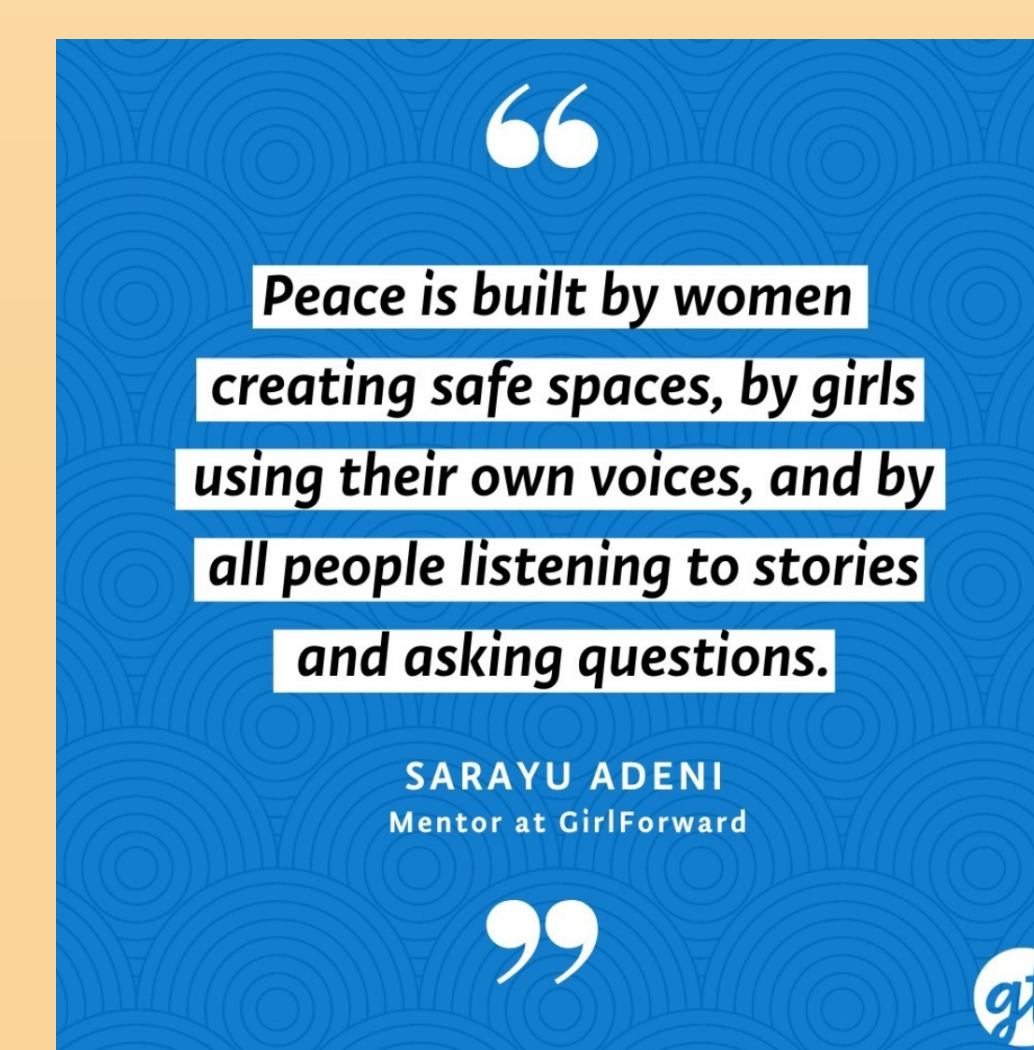


Abstract:

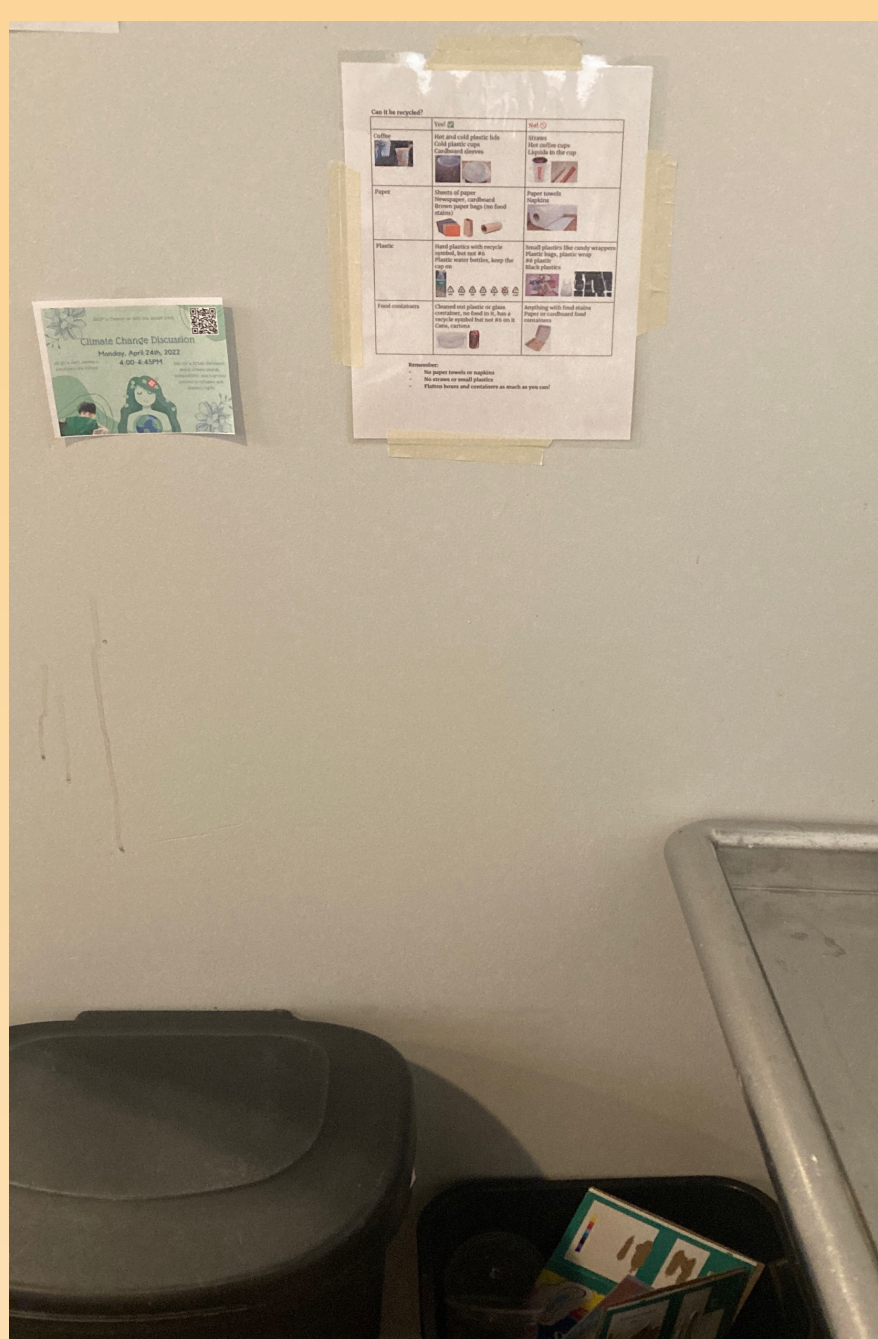
I obtained my internship at GirlForward through the Social Justice Internship Program from CELTS at Loyola. It is a year-long program which gives students the opportunity to intern at one of the five Chicago area non-profits: Misericordia, Catholic Charities, ONE Northside, GirlForward, and Forging Opportunities for Refugees in America. I was selected as the Education Intern at GirlForward for the SJI 2022-2023 cohort. GirlForward is a non-profit organization located in Chicago and Austin, TX with the mission of providing support and enhancing opportunities for refugee girls. The three main services are mentoring, safe spaces, and tutoring. I worked in the tutoring department and my responsibilities included facilitating tutoring sessions, contributing to the monthly newsletter, keeping attendance of participants and tutors, co-interviewing new tutors, and creating a personal project.



Flyer for my personal project discussion



One of the recycling bins and signs I installed in the Chicago space



Tutoring with Chantal

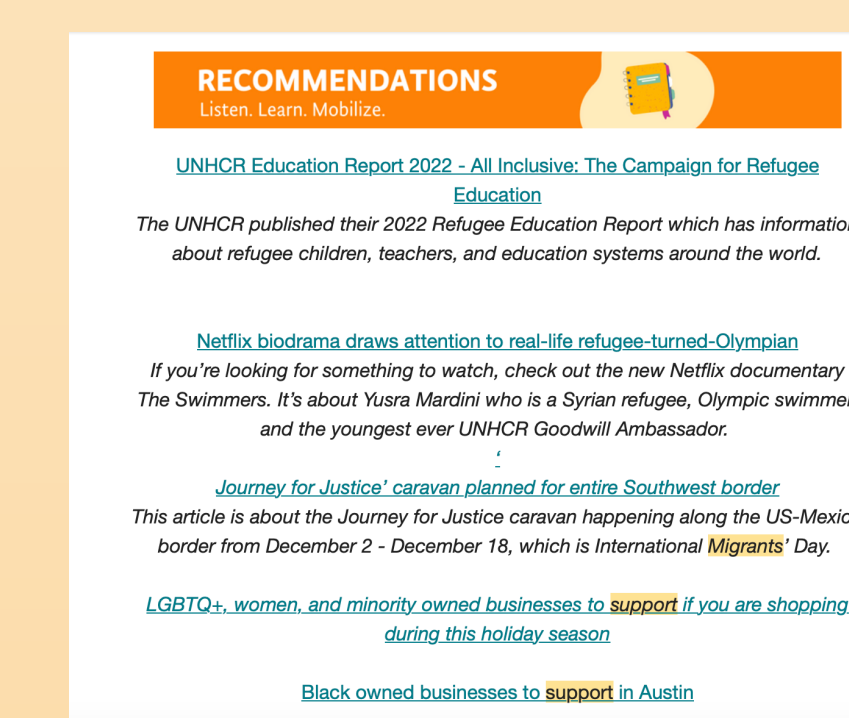


Learning Objectives

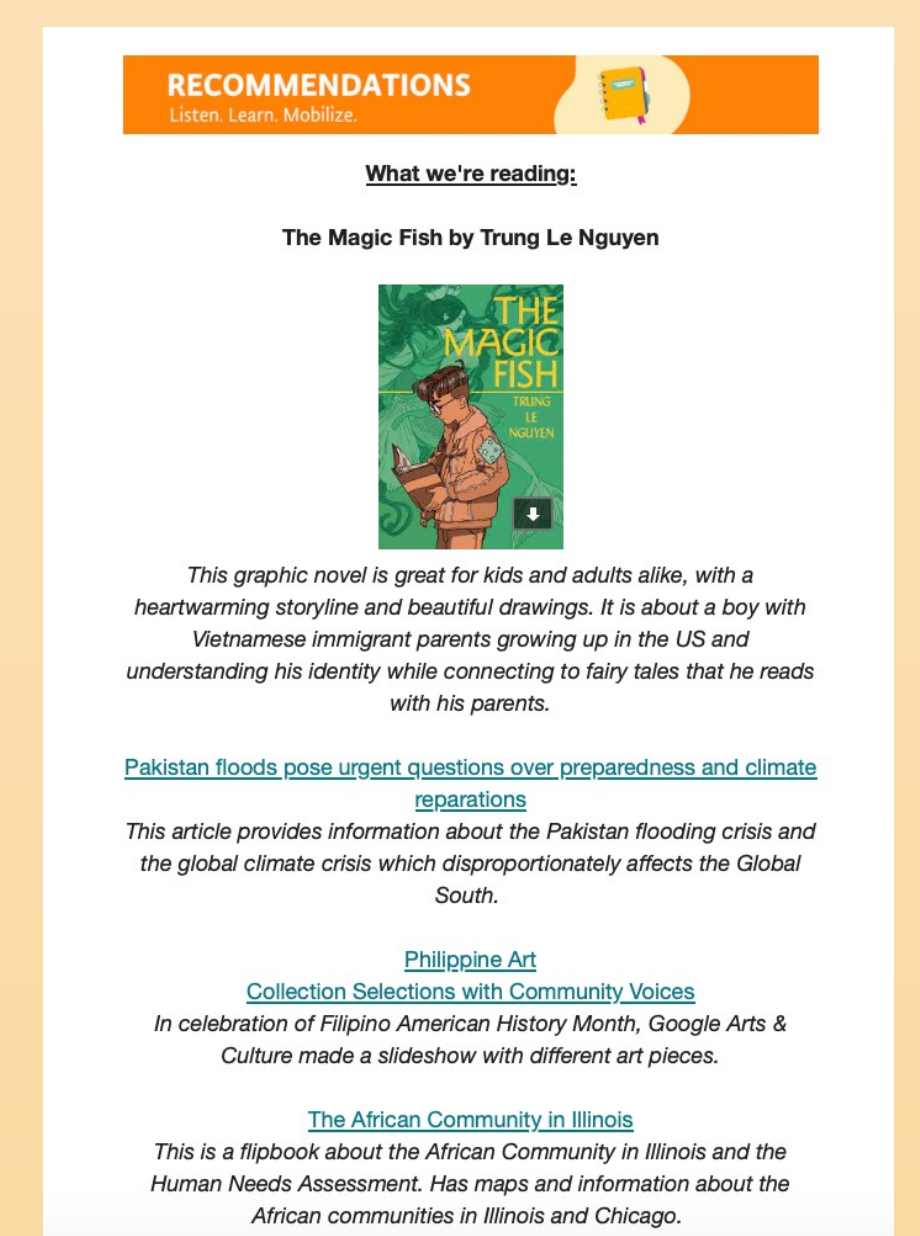
Throughout the course of the internship I would like to:

- Communicate effectively and professionally with GirlForward staff, girls, and tutors via tutor interviews, email, Slack, virtual and in-person meetings, spreadsheet notes, and the monthly newsletter
- Be able to identify and discuss the issues that refugee girls face, and the ways that GirlForward and our community can support immigrant families and girls.
- Demonstrate an understanding of what it means to work at a nonprofit and what kinds of skills and working styles are needed.
- Develop a meaningful personal project that contributes to the mission of GirlForward.

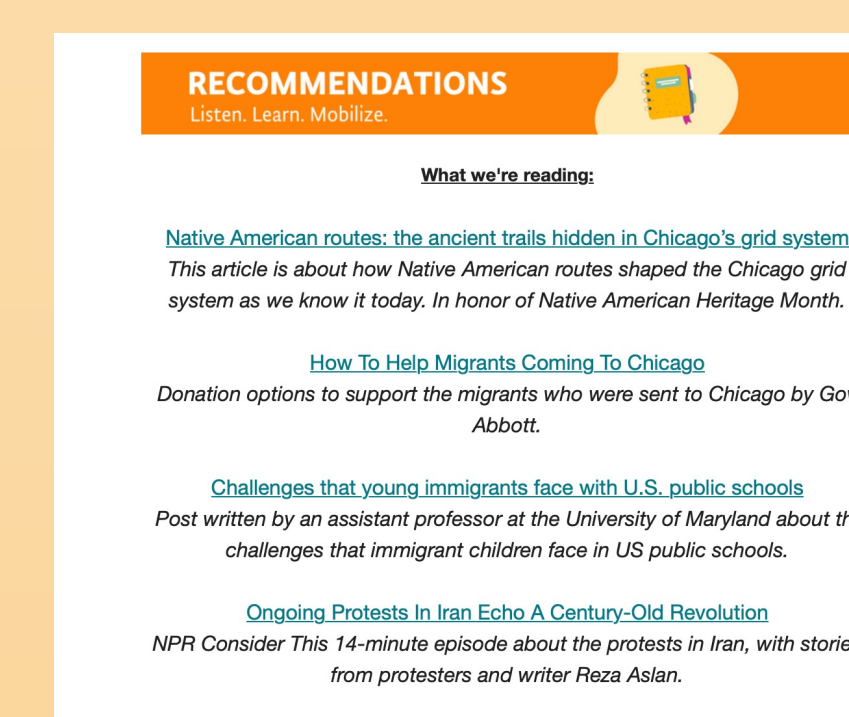
Newsletter December 2022



Newsletter October 2022



Newsletter November 2022



Reflection:

During my time at GirlForward, I've learned so much about non-profit work, effective teamwork, tutoring, refugee experiences, and more. I've learned how to facilitate group zoom sessions, tutor girls, participate in all-staff meetings, the logistics of organizing a tutoring program and summer camp curriculum, and how to support my supervisor, coworkers, and fellow interns. This internship has greatly improved my professional teamwork and communication skills and expanded my worldview. I especially love the culture of GirlForwards' space, because it is a women-led organization where everyone is encouraged to advocate for themselves, to share their ideas, to prioritize their health, and to feel supported by the rest of the team. I feel so lucky to be a part of an organization that supports some of the most important and incredible people in our community: young refugee/immigrant women.