



ABSTRACT

The Social Justice Internship Program pairs an undergraduate student with a non-profit organization. I was selected to intern at GirlForward, a non-profit organization that provides tutoring, mentoring, and safe-spaces for girls who identify as refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants. Specifically, I am incredibly lucky to be working in the GirlForward Mentoring Program. The Mentoring Program pairs a high school girl with an adult woman, forming a friendship and support system between them. Through this program, GirlForward looks to discuss and improve what they call the mentees' 4 W's: wellness, wisdom, wallet, and world. I have worked on the following projects: Mentoring Database, Tutoring, and Resource Guide.

MENTORING DATABASE

I updated databases that contained information regarding communication, identity, background, and more. I strove to get the most recent and accurate information available, ensuring clear and easy communication between mentors and mentees.



Such information also helps GirlForward empathetically and equitably assess how to enhance mentor/mentee relationships, considering and valuing each part of an individual's identity and background.



TUTORING



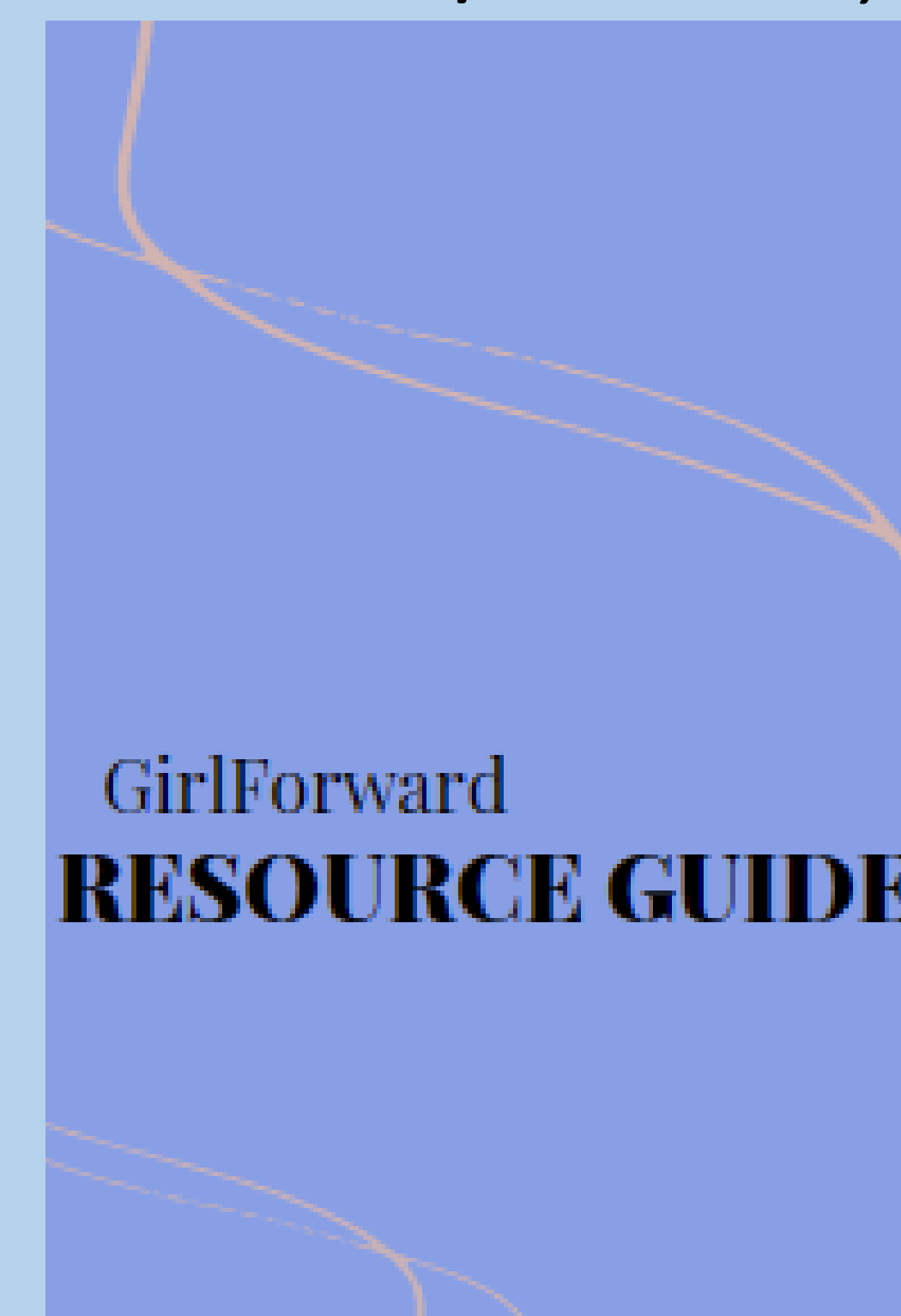
The GirlForward Tutoring Program provides free afterschool tutoring for girls in high school and college. I had the privilege to tutor in-person during the fall semester and online during the spring semester.

I especially connected with Charlotte, a girl who is majoring in nursing at Indiana State University. Charlotte zooms in every week to work on sociology homework. Throughout my sessions with her, our writing skills and sociological knowledge grew and improved.



RESOURCE GUIDE

My personal project consisted of creating a resource guide for the girls. In this guide, I have included information about helpful numbers/hotlines, educational support, employment options, legal advocacy, mental health services, shelter, housing, food pantries, and more. Because it is a guide for the girls, I crucially incorporated clear step-by-step instructions on how to utilize these resources. For instance, when highlighting employment opportunities at various sites, I provided a script of what to say when calling these locations. When it is fully finished, the resource guide will be printed for girls to pick up at GirlForward and an electronic version with links will be uploaded online.



CONCLUSION

I am so proud to be a part of GirlForward as they serve girls who identify as refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. I have met so many strong, resilient girls, who have shared their dreams, aspirations, and goals with me. Through the classroom engagement portion of the Social Justice Internship, I have learned about community development, leadership, organization, and advocacy. I am so thankful for Professor Jorion, Alexis Armfield, and GirlForward for giving me this opportunity, sharing their rich knowledge, providing guidance and advice, and supporting my goals and aspirations.

