Abstract

Loyola University of Chicago offers a grant program where undergraduate students are paired with a non-profit organization to develop transferable skills throughout the year. The program allows you to obtain 3 credits for Engaged Learning and contributes students with a $2,000 grant per semester.

Weekly Volunteer Opportunities

- Clothing Room help
- Daily Supper Service
- Pop-up events there are special opportunities for volunteers to connect with community partners.

Learning Goals

My learning goals at Catholic Charities are to develop my client interaction skills and be empathetic to their situation. Case management skills are another skill that will allow me to help individuals and families access the services they need and guide them to the right people. Likewise, by getting exposure to the operations of a nonprofit organization, including volunteer management, funding, and resources, I will be able to understand the logistics and process of project development for non-profits.

Catholic Charities Aspirations

- Catholic Charities is a non-profit organization that helps immigrants and homeless individuals. Staff members aim to meet human needs in a faith-based community of courageous compassion, solidarity, and joy.
- By building programs that inspire hope through meaningful and measurable impact Strengthen and empower people, families, and communities.
- Create and share opportunities for living out through service and accompaniment, community building, dialogue, and debate.

Role

This organization assists with housing, food, case management, and other services to transform the lives of immigrants, and homeless people of all ages. My job has been to retrieve monthly statistics from major projects imparted for immigrants sponsored by 150 parishes across Lake and Cook Counties. I am also a content creator for ongoing events and have assisted in translating documents for the public. I have also cited partnership projects on new development strategies for people who need assistance with their daily living.

Reflection

Having had the opportunity of being an intern at Loyola University of Chicago since September 2023 led me to engage and interact with people from diverse backgrounds and experiences. I met people who have lost everything and yet still have the same will to live, mutually help each other, and work to get out of their situation and help their families. When it comes to my personal development, I was able to work more efficiently by condensing the information I was given in a document with multiple pages into a single page of statistics or an overview of a project that has been ongoing since before I arrived at the office. I learned that healing people is showing them what their path looks like and being a resource that will take them one step ahead for their healing. Helping immigrants has made me grow as a person and as a worker and I want to continue helping those who believe they can’t choose their own opportunities.

Special thanks to my internship advisor, Jorion Tucker, and the hardworking Homelessness Prevention and Crisis Assistance team.