

Summer Internship Report 2017

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Hometown: Lynchburg, Virginia



**Bread for the World
Washington, D.C.**

(Lindsey is pictured on the far right)

Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.

Bread for the World is a non-profit organization that lobbies Congress to end hunger in the U.S. and abroad. As an intern with the Development department, I focused on fundraising and major donations. I was responsible for tracking online gifts, entering daily donations into Raisers Edge, updating member profiles, completing mail mergers, and composing social media posts to boost donations. I also participated in Bread for the World's annual Lobby Day as a caucus runner for my state, and attended a meeting with my congressional representative.

During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?

I used my writing skills more often than expected. The description of my internship didn't focus on creative writing, but I employed it frequently when composing and publishing social media posts. It was a relief to be able to sharpen these skills while also learning to navigate programs like Raiser's Edge and Luminare. Both of these programs are typical to most nonprofit organizations, it is a great skill to boost my resume.

Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?

The Vice President of Development was having technical issues with his donor presentation video and required me to find a new solution. My critical thinking skills gathered over my years at Sewanee helped me create three alternative ways to share and play his presentation. In the process, I taught him just how versatile and handy an HDMI cord can be.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?

Lobby Day is held by Bread for the World every June. This is a time for members to join us on the Hill and urge Congress to vote in favor of current legislation that may affect hungry and vulnerable people. Over 400 people participated this year. It took significant organizing and teamwork behind the scenes to plan meetings and activities for every member. The other interns and I were responsible for running state caucuses and helping members and visitors get to their individual meetings. It took effective and smooth communication between us to succeed.

How did your internship affect your career plans?

Bread for the World showed me the daily practices of a non-profit and helped solidify my goal to work in the private sector as a lobbyist. In a strange way, it also helped me decide that I have a passion for understanding global medicine and pharmaceuticals. I plan on entering the Peace Corps after graduation, and hope to return ready to study global health and policy.

In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?

The staff is very diverse. Every race, religion, and ethnicity were represented. Even though Bread for the World is a Christian organization, it understands that every belief and idea is critical to the cause. One of my fellow interns was an international student from Vietnam, and although she's been studying here in the U.S. for three years, she still had trouble navigating the office environment. We were able to communicate effectively because we took the time outside of work to get to know each others' stories and experiences. It made communication and teamwork in the office much smoother.

Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:

I would like to thank my donor again for his gracious contribution. Without the living stipend, this internship would not have been possible. Bread is such an incredible organization and I was so honored to be a part of something so moving and empowering. My time spent in DC was just a preview into what I hope my future will be. Working in the public health sector can seem daunting given our current political environment, but Bread's work is more important now than it ever has been. Thank you for letting me be a part of this great work.

Words of advice for future interns (housing, transportation, etc.)?

I would advise a future intern to take advantage of every networking opportunity. My office hosted one over the course of my internship, and alerted us to other receptions and lectures of interest. Always take public transportation if it's available, it's all part of the experience. Get to know your fellow interns, they're great to socialize with during your time in the office and could be great connections in the future.