

This past summer, I moved to Washington, D.C. to begin a six-week long internship with Bread for the World, an organization that urges our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Having interned with Sewanee's Annual Fund team the summer before, I was happy to begin my post-collegiate transition with a position in the organization's Development and Membership Department, which is responsible for raising funds to support the budgets of Bread for the World and Bread for the World Institute, as well as to maintain and promote membership with Bread. I came to Bread at an exciting time, as my supervisor Kari Bert, who serves as the Deputy Director of Development and Membership, was helping to coordinate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, the National Gathering Day, and the Lobby Day for Bread members, annual events which bring together Bread members in order to both educate them on hunger issues in the World and to promote advocacy.

At this series of anniversary events, which was held during my first week with Bread, I met the 13<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of Sewanee, Bob Ayres, as well as my Pennsylvania Congressman, Joe Pitts, and I was present for a presentation by Rick Steves, who is noted for his European travel books and television show. As I had not before experienced the efforts of an organization like Bread, this was a powerful introduction to the nonprofit, advocacy-based world in Washington, D.C. The three key issues focused on this year were food aid reform, immigration reform, and mass incarceration. Six guest speakers who had personally been affected by these issues came in to speak to the several hundred members in attendance. Bread is especially unique because it highlights highly debated policy issues, such as immigration reform, and shows how they are also issues that affect hunger.

In addition to the National Gathering events, Bread also organized a Lobby Day for its members who were willing to participate. I had not been a part of the lobbying process before, and it was a very different experience than I had envisioned. I was able to visit the offices of two of my state's Congressmen and speak to members of their offices on Bread's highlighted issues. After this full afternoon of meetings, Bread held a celebratory event in honor of the Representatives who had been longtime supporters of Bread. I believe six attended, including my own Pennsylvania Representative.

During my duration at Bread, I contributed to a number of related projects. I was first trained by a Development Associate to become proficient in Raiser's Edge, the fundraising software Bread uses. I updated the organization's Legacy of Hope mailings and Bread's Newsletters on Raiser's Edge by researching editions sent out during the past five years and flagging notable members who had been interviewed on their own experiences with Bread, as either valued donors or victims of hunger who had benefited from Bread's efforts. This was especially enlightening to see how many individuals had remained active members of Bread since its founding forty years ago. Additionally, in the weeks after the anniversary dinner, I helped Kari organize her office by creating sample books for the last few years of direct mailings. These mailings showcase the efforts of Bread's Development Department and reveal the countless stories of individuals affected by hunger, as well as the efforts over the years that were undergone in order to bring about an end to hunger in local communities and beyond. In addition to these mailings, I helped further update the server and keep track of donations that came in to Bread in response to the mailings. I learned rather quickly that maintaining updated records is crucial to both membership increase and retention at an organization like Bread.

While I interned in the Development Department, I was also able to experience the operations of other departments, and especially informative to me were the weekly Legislative Updates by the Government Relations Department at Bread. A conference call would be held between the DC employees and Bread members on the road, and we would be given an update on Bread issues, namely immigration and food aid reform, that both the House and Senate were currently addressing. This was a great way to see what Bread was working towards every week, and it was an educational and easy way to remain updated on the weekly legislative occurrences on Capitol Hill.

Most notably about my experience at Bread, the Development associates included me as if I were a member of the Department. I attended all weekly Membership and Major Gift Officer team meetings, and I was expected to keep all members up to date on my weekly progress, as well as offer suggestions on the effectiveness of the meetings and fundraising strategies thus far. The topics we discussed ranged from Bread's summer match program to leadership cultivation to investments in digital strategy. Every topic was especially informative for someone like myself who desires to explore a development-related career.

My six weeks at Bread were an extremely rewarding experience, and I am very happy to know that I will be able to stay in touch with my summer co-workers, as I am now working full time at a fundraising and consulting firm just a few blocks away. Bread ultimately taught me that I like working in a small office setting in an urban environment, and the people at Bread truly helped me to further develop and transition my existing fundraising experience.