

Intern Essay Excerpts:

” Since I started my internship at Bethesda House, I have grown from working with a category – the impoverished and the homeless – to working with people, with men and women who have histories, experiences, families, and values...I have grown from assuming that the homeless are dangerous and irresponsible to knowing that the system often fails them...I have learned that the most violent, horrifying thing that exists in this world is ignorance...We must recognize that these people , who are often considered society’s rejects, are people of value...We must not pretend that they are invisible; we must make them visible” – Abby Feldman

“When I heard that I was going to be working at the Hamilton Hill Arts Center, as a counselor, I was both thrilled and kind of scared. I did want to work with kids, but like many people I had a fear of the area. (But by the end of her work there, Olga had a different outlook.)...I started to understand the area isn’t as bad as many people say it is...mostly because there is a sense of unity within it..I think other societies should take some of the ideas that the Art Center has to offer...because unity is what accomplishes a goal.” – Olga Gisin

“To be honest, when Margaret and David asked me if I wanted to work at the (Hamilton Hill) Arts Center, I really did not want to work there. I, like many other people, thought that Hamilton Hill was a very scary place where horrible things happened. I thought that all of the people would be involved in gangs and not very accepting of me...(but by the end of her internship she wrote) I am so glad that I took that risk, because I loved being there every day. I was excited to go to work and see all of the children and work with the counselors...I really enjoyed how accepting they were to me because I never felt out of place...While working there I realized that there was a sense of community... I enjoyed how close-knit their community was and how though they may not have a lot, they’re always willing to help each other out....I hope that I helped the children, because they have helped me.” – Allison Perlstein