

Opening doors, hearts and minds

10

Ten years of the
Summer Internship Program
2005-2014



Tosin Odeshi (right) and mentor Karen Fowler, Children's Hospital Foundation, 2010



What is **SIP**?

THE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Since 2005, The Winnipeg Foundation's Summer Internship Program (SIP) has been matching Youth in Philanthropy participants with local, hands-on, paid summer jobs in the non-profit sector. Over the past 10 years, 76 intern matches have been made with 49 different organizations. These "once-in-a-lifetime" experiences allow interns to develop skills and learn more about the charitable sector through meaningful summer work.

I saw things I would have never seen, and did things I would have never done, thus making me think in ways I never would have thought. I started my life this summer.

– Alanna Dallmann, SIP Intern, The WRENCH, 2013

Through SIP, mentor organizations gain the capacity to undertake short-term projects and many benefit from a fresh, new perspective on their programming.

We greatly benefited from Amy's contributions in many ways. Her short time with us brought out the sensitivity and awareness towards charity and community work.

– Rady Jewish Community Centre, 2011

The goal of SIP is to open the doors of the non-profit sector, creating the next generation of executive directors, youth leaders, program facilitators, and a stronger Winnipeg where community life flourishes.

I feel as though the floodgates of knowledge and community building were opened to me from this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

– Zach Mutawe, SIP Intern,
Seven Oaks General Hospital Foundation, 2012

To the agencies and mentors who have shared their knowledge, time, and passion; to the interns who have invested their energy, attention, and thoughtfulness; and to donors of The Winnipeg Foundation for their contribution, belief in, and commitment to the next generation:

Thank you for ten inspiring and rewarding summers!



Inspiring the

NOW

Last year during the Community Foundations of Canada Conference, I had the opportunity to participate with other youth from across Canada, all passionate about making a significant impact within their communities. We combined our perspectives and experiences to brainstorm philanthropic action plans to take back to our respective foundations. A recurring sentiment became our theme: “Let us sit not at the kids’ table but at the adults’ table”, we said. “For we are not the future. We are the now.”

This bold statement embodies the impact SIP has had on my life. Before my placement, I took advantage of every opportunity my school had to offer. These activities exposed me to many different interests but lacked any focus I needed for the future.

My SIP placement at the Manitoba Eco-Network came as a surprise as it represented only a small fraction of my interests. Yet over the two months of my internship, I discovered and developed a passion for the research and advocacy that come along with environmental issues. Most important, I was surrounded by dedicated people who loved what they did and, despite limitations that come with working for an NGO, greeted each day with perseverance and enthusiasm. I continue to be inspired by the determination of the people I worked with that summer.

The opportunities which continue beyond my internship remind me how grateful I am to be a SIP alumna. Due to my interest in the environmental field, in my grade 12 year I was one of three Canadian youth delegates at Stockholm+40, an international conference on sustainability. This experience led me to choose Queen’s University for its Environmental and Life Sciences programs, allowing me to combine environmental and biomedical studies. I am currently president of AIESEC Queen’s, a chapter of the world’s largest youth-led non-profit organization dedicated to providing leadership and exchange opportunities. Echoing the parting words from the CFC conference, the SIP experience is not about creating the youth of tomorrow. Rather, it is about inspiring youth to make an impact today.

MARIE SERENEO | 2011 Summer Intern, Manitoba Eco-Network

AMY LAM | 2013 Summer Intern,
West Broadway Community
Organization

Hey Amy, what are you up to this summer?

I'm an intern at West Broadway Community Organization!

So what do you do there?

I help with the Good Food Club, which brings food security to the community of West Broadway.

Neat! How do you do that?

Each week we harvest fresh, organic produce and host a farmer's market where we sell it for a really affordable price. Not only does it bring the community together but it also promotes a healthy diet. I love seeing people so excited about fresh vegetables!

Wow! What else do you do there?

On Fridays we visit the farm; it's always a good time. We sometimes visit the Spence Neighborhood Association to teach kids' cooking classes. A typical week also involves grocery shopping and some paper work to keep all our members organized.

You must be busy!

I am, especially on market days – but those are my favourite days! It's amazing to hear the stories of the community members and by the end of the summer I know I'll miss everyone a lot. They've welcomed me and I've learned so much about everyone. I've also learned so much about farming, gardening and healthy eating!

Sounds like a great summer to me!

Food
FOR
thought

On a mission for **social justice**

My internship at Siloam Mission was a formative experience. Prior to this, I was aware of poverty in developing countries, but I had no sense of the extent to which Canada confronts severe social justice and poverty issues.

My major role was helping coordinate a social justice education day where high school students, interested church members, and others spent the day at Siloam Mission learning how the homeless live and what bureaucratic hoops they must jump through to access social services. What stuck with me was how the current approach to tackling poverty, mental health, homelessness, and Aboriginal issues is ineffective.

The internship directed me towards the issues and causes I am now passionate about and the skills needed to make a difference. My knowledge of social justice broadened at university where I focused on international human rights. I led a

team in a successful bid to host the 2012 Canadian Political Science Students' Association Conference, *Human Rights: A Canadian Perspective*. After completing my B.A. Honours, I was chosen to participate in the Ontario Legislature Internship Program, where I learned more about social assistance, housing programs and mental health strategies.

Youth today are mobilizing to effect change to social conditions all around the world. I am proud that The Winnipeg Foundation provides a local avenue for youth to harness this energy to improve our city.

GILLIAN HANSON | 2008 Summer Intern,
Siloam Mission



“I spent two hours playing in the water with five kids who I swear never, ever get tired! A few swimming lessons later, tons of tag, and Marco Polo, and a triumphant, four-lap swim to get into the deep end, I was exhausted. And yet, I couldn't tell you if the kids were happier or if I was.”

That was from a blog post I wrote two years ago, two weeks into my SIP internship at Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, where I am currently beginning my third summer of work.

Working with children is still the most challenging but rewarding aspect of my position. Every hug I get, every kid that wants to hold my hand, sit with me on the bus, or play a game warms my heart because it demonstrates that what I am doing is making a difference. SIP opened the door to one of the most rewarding jobs I could ask for.

I feel SIP is an invaluable experience for any young person; it grants you unparalleled access to the charitable sector and introduces you to the incredible work such organizations do in our community. It allowed me to continue to develop skills such as communication, organization, patience and many others which I value in both my work and personal life. The networking, continued employment opportunities, and friendships SIP allowed me to develop are amazing benefits of this program. SIP also teaches you a lot about yourself, your goals and your values. The internship demonstrated to me the kind of work I want to do and more importantly the kind of person I strive to be.

Work and volunteering in the charitable sector has become a major part of my life since SIP. Along with my summer work at Ma Mawi, I volunteer with CAN-U and, as a member of the Bison track and field team, with Bison Book Buddies. It is my hope that I will continue with such work for the entirety of my life, and that other YiPpers will get to experience this amazing growing and learning experience.

SHANDRA READY | 2012 Summer Intern, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

Positive returns



Interns Shandra Reedy (left), Ma Mawi Wf Chi Itaka Centre, 2012 and Richa Sori, Assiniboine Park Conservancy, 2012



A week in the life...

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During my 2011 internship at the Children's Museum, one of my assignments from The Winnipeg Foundation was to write a "week in the life" report. I recently came across this report, and it reminded me (in great detail) of my impressions and experience early in the program.

My SIP placement was my first full-time job, and this report from my second week brought back the sense of wonder that I felt at being employed in the offices of an organization of which I had treasured childhood memories. Apparently I found *everything* noteworthy; the minute details I recorded included which door I used to enter the building and the name of the software I used for data entry. While I now find it humorous that I was so awestruck by ordinary things, I think my enthusiasm reflected that I was truly part of what went on behind the scenes. New doors, keys, and software were tactile reminders of the responsibilities that came with them.

In retrospect, one of the most valuable lessons I took from SIP is that just because I've never done something before doesn't make me unqualified. I remember wondering, "why would they trust me to do this?" However, my willingness to learn, ask questions, share ideas, and seek suggestions all contributed to the Museum's organizational goals. This understanding of work as a continuous learning process has given me more confidence in applying for different jobs and programs.

three years later.

In my three years of university, I have taken on a wide variety of summer work, including another term at the Museum coordinating their Day Camp program in 2012. While I may not be using the same data entry software that I seem to have found so interesting three years ago, the attitude and work ethic that I developed through SIP has certainly played no small role in my ability to adjust to all these new situations.

JONAS CORNELSEN | 2011 Summer Intern, Children's Museum

A Mentor's Perspective

In 2006, Julie Eccles and Tricalynn Morgan hosted Summer Intern Glenney Maco at the Zoological Society of Manitoba. As some of the first mentors in the program, they helped set the stage for the Summer Internship Program. Since then, Tricalynn and Julie have changed careers but their commitment to the program has not wavered. As the Executive Director of Rainbow Stage, Julie hosted an intern in 2012, and again in 2014 with Tricalynn on board as the Rainbow Stage Development Officer. Here Tricalynn shares her thoughts on SIP.

“I am delighted to be celebrating ten years of The Winnipeg Foundation’s Summer Internship Program! I’ve participated as a mentor both this year and in the program’s second year and feel very fortunate to be part of such an integral program for today’s youth.

This summer, at Rainbow Stage, we have the honor of mentoring a dedicated and driven young graduate from Garden City Collegiate, Alyssandra Edwards. In 2006, both Julie and I had the pleasure of mentoring a wonderful young woman, Glenney, when we worked together at the Zoological Society of Manitoba; and Julie was also able to host Chereese Matula in 2012. Through these experiences, we’ve seen the SIP program grow bigger and better with each passing year.

Being lucky enough to be a host agency and working with such dedicated and inspiring young people has in turn, inspired us as mentors and helped us grow professionally as well. Strong work ethic, dependability, responsibility, possessing a positive attitude, adaptability, honesty, integrity, motivation to grow and learn, confidence, professionalism, and loyalty are just a few values that we, as mentors, have tried to pass on to our interns. Each learned these values quickly, added a dash of determination and unsurpassed energy, and then returned those same lessons to us – making us better for it.

On behalf of all past and present SIP mentors and host agencies – happy tenth anniversary!

TRICALYNN MORGAN | Rainbow Stage Development Officer



Internship blossoms

Jennifer La Spina was a 2013 Summer Intern with Assiniboine Park Conservancy, where she was part of the volunteer resources team. Her position included overseeing volunteers at the Zoo as well as human resources development, data base analysis, administration, event planning, and writing newsletter articles.

“Working in Volunteer Resources meant that I was definitely interacting with volunteers and zoo visitors quite often, which helped to improve my communication skills,” says Jennifer. “I was also matched exceptionally well to my mentor. Shaun is a no-nonsense person who quickly learned my strengths and then gave me assignments that would benefit both myself and the organization. She also pushed me to be independent and provided me with opportunities to complete tasks/projects on my own.”

Jennifer’s mentor, Shaun Leonoff, says, “Having an intern added so much to our volunteer team. The synergy was great and we were able to run a much more supportive volunteer program. Our intern was able to step right into a busy program and see where we needed help. She brought a fresh set of eyes to our processes and was comfortable sharing her thoughts.”

Jennifer’s internship was so successful, she was hired on by Assiniboine Park Conservancy as a casual staff member over the winter months and full time for summer 2014.

JENNIFER LA SPINA | 2013 Summer Intern,
Assiniboine Park
Conservancy



Jennifer La Spina (right) and mentor Shaun Leonoff,
Assiniboine Park Conservancy, 2013

Alessia Guzzi, Winnipeg Art Gallery, 2013



ARTISTIC inspiration

Working at the Winnipeg Art Gallery was one of the most rewarding summer jobs I could ever have had as a high school student.

I had the opportunity to do a variety of tasks within the education department of the WAG. Working with the summer camps was an added bonus because I love working with kids! I was often busy in the office, on field trips, at festivals, in the galleries, or at the front desk. I was definitely pushed out of my comfort zone, and always learning on the spot, which was a great experience for me!

Not only was the organization amazing, my mentors were incredible as well. They were very open and inviting, and

shared their daily lives as employees of the Winnipeg Art Gallery. During my internship, I met so many inspiring people, including the employees, volunteers, and the public at the WAG, as well as all the other interns and their mentors.

SIP inspired me to continue volunteering in the non-profit sector and, maybe one day, work with a non-profit organization dedicated to a cause I feel strongly about. I am thankful for the time I was granted to work with, and learn about, a community of people who are passionate about their work.

ALESSIA GUZZI | 2013 Summer Intern,
Winnipeg Art Gallery

Philanthropic foundation

As I look back and remember my summer at the Children's Museum, it is hard for me to believe I would be in the place I am now without having spent time there.

As a family studies teacher with a nursery school, I am in direct contact with young children and high school students on a daily basis. The lessons I learned and the experiences I gained at the Children's Museum have been incredibly helpful in my current position.

I participated in SIP the summer I graduated from high school and at the time thought I wanted to go into business. I was interested in working in the non-profit sector because I had a strong philanthropic basis from high school, from YiP, and from my own personal life.

Although I didn't realize it at the time, the hours I spent working with the day camp, interacting with patrons on the museum floor, and connecting with others that worked in the building, I was creating a foundation of knowledge to draw on for the next several years as I moved through a variety of summer jobs working directly with children, and eventually leading me to my chosen career as an educator.

The Summer Internship Program was incredibly beneficial. It gave me concrete experience in the non-profit sector and demonstrated to me the importance of these organizations. It gave me a long term connection to the work of The Winnipeg Foundation. I am a founding member of the Young Philanthropists Network and I sit on the Foundation's Nourishing Potential Advisory Committee. I still feel compelled to build my philanthropic efforts and much of that has to do with my SIP experiences.

ERIN WARD | 2007 Summer Intern, Children's Museum



Aces High



It's late June. The year is 2011. I'm seventeen years old, about to start my first summer of fulltime work.

One small issue: I'm not really sure *what* I'll be doing.

I was placed in The Winnipeg Foundation's Summer Internship Program at a non-profit called *aceartinc.*, which does...*something* involving art. As a dyed-in-the-wool band geek, the art world is *completely alien* to me and I don't know what kind of work a band geek will do at one of the artsiest places in town. **But I'm really excited to find out.**

It's mid-July. I've finally wrapped my head around what *aceartinc.* does. It's an "Artist Run Centre": a place where local and emerging artists can exhibit their creations, network, and access the resources they need.

Ace is planning a Soap Box Derby fundraiser for September. Most of my work will be on this event: making promotional materials, finding raffle prizes, and recruiting racers. Being in YiP gave me some experience with this sort of thing, but nothing on this scale.

It's getting to the end of the summer. The raffle part of the fundraiser has become my baby – I've tracked down about a hundred companies, convinced nearly all of them to donate prizes, and traveled to every corner of the city to pick them up. The people I've talked to were even more generous and friendly than I could've imagined. That's one of the best parts of working at a non-profit – being constantly exposed to the best parts of human nature. Driving and biking everywhere for prize pickups has also deepened my knowledge of Winnipeg and made me feel more integrated in this city.

My time at *ace* is almost over. I've learned so much about the art world and the non-profit sector, and my appreciation of both has grown enormously. The site visits to other interns' organizations have broadened my perspective even further. There's so much amazing work of all kinds being done in Winnipeg, and I'm thrilled to be part of it.

SHAUN MCDONALD | 2011 Summer Intern, *aceartinc.*



Cultural

STORIES

In 2009, Lysbeth Arthur was a summer intern at Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, where she helped with youth programming. Through her experience, Lysbeth was immersed in Aboriginal culture and tradition, which provided a rich learning experience.

“I did not realize how alive Aboriginal culture is in our society and how hard many people work to keep it that way today,” wrote Lysbeth in her final report on her internship.

With her enthusiasm and willingness to learn, Lysbeth impressed her mentor, Dana, who wrote:

“After the first day of meeting the intern I was blown away with her personality, maturity, open-mind, attitude and sense of humor.

Our entire program and organization was

pleased with her attitude, work ethic, and eagerness to learn and understand the culture.”

Lysbeth has stayed in touch with her former mentors, Dana and Tiffany, and recently met with them to reminisce about their summer working together.

Today, looking back at her experience at Ma Mawi, Lysbeth says: “often when people hear “North End” and “Aboriginal programming” they do not think of “culture” or its necessity and vitality in the community! I’m so happy to know that I was given the wonderful opportunity to work with such a comprehensive and local NGO that projects ideal goals out of real-life situations.”

LYSBETH ARTHUR | 2009 Summer Intern,
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata
Centre

Summer of transformation

Before SIP I was a regular high school student, eager about volunteering and enjoying school. Although YiP taught me about some of the issues local charities tackle, I still wasn't well informed. I also had firm opinions on homelessness, poverty, and human rights but I wasn't vocal about how I felt.

Following SIP I noticed that I grew in maturity, empathy, knowledge, and philanthropy. I know now that I want to pursue a career in public relations; I plan on representing non-profit organizations for the rest of my life. I made this decision after studying my mentors, Janet and Maridel, during the summer; I noticed they were happy every day because they did meaningful work to help others.

Because of my experience working with Community Living Winnipeg, I am proud to say I'm an advocate for intellectually disabled persons. I also learned a lot about other charities during site visits hosted by SIPpers. When I visited Winnipeg Harvest, I was motivated to make a difference; I joined the Kids who Care program and raised \$30, 45 pounds of food, and donated 30 hours of my time. During the school year I became more involved with my YiP committee.

I had no idea that eight weeks could change a person, but here I am: a better student, philanthropist, worker, and citizen.

TAMIKA REID | 2013 Summer Intern,
Community Living Winnipeg



Tamika Reid (left) and mentor Maridel Daequel, Community Living Winnipeg, 2013

Hope Akello (right) and mentor Faiza Hargaaya, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba, 2010



Applying for SIP

The Summer Internship Program is open to any current Youth in Philanthropy participant and any registered charitable organization in Winnipeg. The matches are made based on the skills and interest of the intern and the needs of the organization. Applications for agencies are posted on our website in March; intern applications are posted in April. SIP runs for 8 weeks between July and August. For more information about eligibility and how to apply, check out our website wpgfdnywc.org!

PAST PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND INTERNS

ace art inc

Tanya Tran, 2010
Shaun McDonald, 2011
Judith Sackey, 2012

Alzheimer Society of Manitoba

Julie Manguba, 2008

Art City Inc

Victoria Weir, 2010
Raymond Lanoria, 2011
Kyra King, 2012

Assiniboine Park Conservancy

Richa Soni, 2012
Jennifer La Spina, 2013

Association for Community Living – Winnipeg

Aliya Mrochuk, 2011
Tamika Reid, 2013

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Winnipeg

Destiny Wing, 2008

Canadian Mental Health Association

Kay Xu, 2013

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

Cameron Power, 2014

Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba

Jacqueline Richelle, 2008
Tosin Odeshi, 2010

Children's Rehabilitation Foundation

Kurtis Hodge, 2009
Rebecca Gomes, 2010
Ifrah Zohair, 2013

Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg

Evelina Mogourian, 2009
Alex Nguyen, 2014

Health Sciences Centre Foundation

Krupa Kotecha, 2006

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba

Annabel Perez, 2006
Mercy Oluwafemi, 2013

Heritage Winnipeg

Roshanie Balkaran, 2014

Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM)

Hope Akello, 2010

John Howard Society of Manitoba

Lexi vanDyck, 2010

Literacy Partners of Manitoba

Asha Nelson, 2013
Caitlyn Gowriluk, 2014

MaMawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

Lysbeth Arthur, 2009
Shandra Ready, 2012

Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties

Elena Basford, 2014

Children's Museum

Erin Ward, 2007
Jonas Cornelsen, 2011
Wendy Wang, 2013

Manitoba Eco-Network

Marie Sereneo, 2011
Ryan Orne-Zaluski, 2012

Manitoba Forestry Association

Jessica Foss, 2008

Manitoba Museum

Marissa MacCorby, 2012

Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre

Jessica Wiebe, 2012

Manitoba Theatre for Young People

Diana Lughas, 2012

Mentoring Artists for Women's Art

Suzanne Gomes, 2007

Newcomers Employment & Education Development Services (NEEDS)

Amanda Vandale, 2005

Nor' West Co-op Community Health Centre

Allison Gagnon, 2007
Maxine Schon, 2011

Pan Am Clinic Foundation

Kenji Pliszka, 2011

Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art

Jase Falk, 2014

Pulford Community Living Services

Arianna Tied, 2014

Rainbow Stage

Cherese Matula, 2012
Alyssandra Edwards, 2014

Reaching E-Quality Employment Services Inc.

Alexis Kozak, 2005

Resource Conservation Manitoba (Green Action Centre)

Rachel Reynolds, 2005

Rose and Max Rady Jewish Community Centre

Amy Wang, 2011
Karlene Wiebe, 2012

Seven Oaks Hospital Foundation

Zach Mutawe, 2012

Siloam Mission

Gillian Hanson, 2008
Kristi Loeb, 2011

Special Olympics Manitoba

Lara Ewanchuk, 2006

Take Pride Winnipeg!

Sean Gee, 2008
Diana Schreibermaier, 2011

The Nature Conservancy of Canada – Manitoba

Amhyl Manzano, 2013
Danielle Bolo, 2014

The Rainbow Society (The Dream Factory)

Christopher Kwan, 2007

The Winnipeg Repair Education and Cycling Hub

Alanna Dallman, 2013
Rebecca Vesner, 2014

University of Winnipeg Global College

Janina Walkenhorst, 2012
Rémi Durocher, 2014

Urban Circle Training Centre

Ann Magnayon, 2005

West Broadway Community Organization

Amy Lam, 2013
Maya Yuel, 2014

Winnipeg Art Gallery

Alessia Guzzi, 2013

Winnipeg Harvest

Katherine Meese, 2012
Baden Kjarsgaard, 2013

Winnipeg Humane Society

Sarah Greenberg, 2009
Meret Shaker, 2010

Zoological Society of Manitoba

Glennay Maco, 2006

About Youth in Philanthropy

The Winnipeg Foundation's Youth in Philanthropy (YiP) program is made possible by the generosity of donors from all walks of life through gifts made to the Foundation. YiP was established in 1999 to introduce local high school students to philanthropy and community development. The program provides hands-on experience that benefits both participating students and local charities. It also brings new and valuable perspectives to the Foundation's grantmaking, while empowering youth as decision-makers and leaders. Over the past 15 years, YiP committees have granted more than \$1.5 million into the community. Our summer interns are participants of the Youth in Philanthropy program.

Follow us on   at www.wpgfdnywc.org

About The Winnipeg Foundation

The Winnipeg Foundation, Canada's first community foundation, helps a wide range of local charitable organizations thanks to gifts from people of all walks of life for over the past 93 years. Their generosity and shared vision of a "Winnipeg where community life flourishes" enabled the Foundation to grant \$21.3 million to important community projects last year.

THE
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FOUNDATION 

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