• Organization:

Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven (NHS New Haven)

• Full street address of organization:

333 Sherman Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

• Website:

www.nhsofnewhaven.org

• Name and title of person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor:

Stephen Cremin-Endes, Director of Community Building & Organizing

• Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor:

203-562-0598 x222 scremin-endes@nhsofnewhaven.org

• Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 26 and Friday, August 7, 2020):

Tuesday, May 26 – Friday, August 7, 2020

• Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe:

Yes – we are able to end the placement a week earlier, if requested.

• Proposed work schedule (placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week):

Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

[One-hour lunch break daily; occasional assignments on weekends. When evening
and weekend assignments occur, we will work with the Fellow to schedule shorter
days and/or days off to stay within the 37.5 hours/week expectation]

Placement Description

- Organization description (mission statement, population served. 150 words or
  less.):

NHS New Haven’s comprehensive approach of clustered affordable housing,
homeownership education, community organizing, and commitment to sustainability
empowers individuals with low and moderate incomes to not only become homeowners
but also vested stakeholders in their community. We have been serving New Haven’s
neighborhoods for the past 40 years.

NHS’ mission is to strengthen neighborhoods by developing affordable housing and
increasing homeownership opportunities; providing homebuyer education and financial
coaching; making homes safe, beautiful, and energy-efficient; and working to improve
perceptions of the neighborhoods in which we are working by helping residents take
charge of their communities. Our affordable housing development is focused in the
Newhallville, Hill, and Dwight neighborhoods of New Haven. Each year we strive to
rehabilitate up to 10 properties in our targeted neighborhoods, devote substantial
community organizing efforts in these locations, and serve as many as 1500 clients
looking to purchase a home or prevent a pending foreclosure.

- Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting
  (50 words or less. This will be used as your organization’s project description
  summary on the PPSF website, so be succinct):

The Fellow will work with residents and the Community Building and Organizing staff to
coordinate the First Beaver Ponds Park Summer Summit in August 2020. Beaver Ponds
Park is located north of Hillhouse High School with Sherman Parkway on the East and
Crescent Street on the West.

- Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the
duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (Suggested length: one to two pages.)

Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven (NHS) is seeking a Yale President’s Public
Service Fellow (YPPSF) to coordinate the first Beaver Ponds Park Summer Summit in
August 2020. Beaver Ponds Park is located north of Hillhouse High School with Sherman
Parkway on the East and Crescent Street on the West. See: https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/parks/our_parks/beaver_pond.htm

NHS has worked with the West River Watershed Coalition for the past ten years and is currently following a Watershed Management Plan, prepared by Fuss & O’Neill in August 2015. As part of the plan, NHS has committed to work on the eastern portion, now extending to the southern terminus to address stormwater run-off, development of trails, removal of garbage and invasive plants, and encourage regrowth of native plants.

Many partners are responsible for the development of this park into a valuable asset for the surrounding neighborhoods. The year 2020 will mark five years since the plan’s start, and NHS is proposing a Summer Summit to bring together the many partners who have worked in various ways to improve the access, visibility, and usage of the space.

The YPPSF will reach out to the following people/organizations to participate in the summit:

- Friends of Beaver Ponds Park – Nan Bartow
- City of New Haven, Department of Parks and Trees
- Urban Resources Initiative
- Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
- Homeowners and renters who live on Sherman Avenue and West Division Street
- Residents in Beaver Hills, Newhallville, and Dixwell
- Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA)
- City of New Haven, Office of Housing and Homelessness Services – Velma George
- Hillhouse High School and Amistad Achievement High School
- Elm City Parks Conservancy (ECPC) – Doreen Abubakar, organizer of Fishing Derbies
- Pop Smith Baseball League
- City of New Haven Alders - Steven Winter and Brian Wingate
- West River Watershed Coalition Access Committee

The student will plan, coordinate, implement, and evaluate this event, with the support of NHS staff. This will include working with a steering committee to develop the schedule of activities for the day. The position will also include working with NHS staff, local residents, and volunteers to maintain this space, including trail work, invasive plants removal, and sowing native plants. The development of project documentation is an important objective, and may include a slide show and/or journal article that captures the history of the Beaver Ponds Park and recent developments.
• List specific skills/experience required for the project:

Required:
• Passion for social justice, community development, and environmental stewardship
• Sincere desire to engage and work with low-income individuals and communities
• Flexibility, initiative, and creativity
• Excellent interpersonal, verbal, and writing skills

Preferred:
• Experience with or willingness to work on neighborhood beautification projects
• Experience with or willingness to engage in grassroots organizing and door-knocking
• Experience with creating promotional materials for community events and workshops
• Experience with or interest in program evaluation

***Fellows with personal experience as a member of a low-income household are strongly encouraged to select Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven as their preferred placement***

• Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):

A car is not required. NHS is located on a bus line and our staff has a culture of carpooling and biking. The Fellow will never be asked to canvass or visit a neighborhood on her or his own. If the Fellow chooses to drive, s/he will have access to free parking and work-related travel will be reimbursed at the NHS staff rate. Community-based work frequently occurs in the evening or on Saturdays.

• Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your organization in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, describe any work that Yale students have done with your organization.

In addition to hosting dozens of volunteer events with Yale students each year, NHS has been fortunate enough to host Yale President’s Public Service Fellows for more than a decade. A few of the projects with which Fellows have assisted us are as follows:
- 2003: Developed a Business Plan for our organization (and presented it to NHS staff and Board of Directors); helped create an expanded website for our organization
- 2008: Coordinated our strategic planning process; created the written Strategic Plan that would guide our activities from 2008-2013; researched housing economic trends to update our Business Plan
- 2010: Worked alongside our Community Organizing team to coordinate neighborhood events and lay the groundwork for future community initiatives
- 2012: Compiled the organization’s Annual Report; surveyed targeted neighborhoods using the Success Measures Survey created by NeighborWorks® America; created a final analysis of survey data
- 2013: Worked to strengthen NHS’ relations with faith-based communities in and around our targeted neighborhoods
- 2015: Developed a sustainability report that identified NHS’ “green” accomplishments of the last year and target outcomes for NHS in 2015-16
- 2016: Conducted the 2016 Community Impact Measurement Survey, our three-year follow-up to the Success Measures Survey undertaken in 2012; provided social media marketing support for HOC Realty, one of NHS’ related organizations.
- 2017: Supported the West River Water Festival and the Newhallville Promise Land Festival, and assisted resident leaders in a clean street/reduced trash initiative of painting four plastic garbage barrels with young residents and teenagers.
- 2018: Worked with Elm City Cycling to teach bike safety to youth in Newhallville, helped paint the Women’s Empowerment Mural, researched and wrote for our five-year Strategic Planning Document, published a weekly newsletter that summarized recent CB&O activities
- 2019: Completed report on, Fighting Blight in Dwight – Protecting Communities and Homes through Historic Preservation.

- NHS has a long history of partnering with young adults, particularly university students, in our community development projects. All Yale President’s Public Service Fellows have served our organization extremely well, assisting us in many different domains including community organizing, written correspondence, and research. Based on the evaluations and comments we have received, each of the students has found the experience of working with NHS to be very worthwhile.

We aim to accommodate the interests of the Yale President’s Public Service Fellow by adapting and tailoring work assignments to maximize their value to the student while helping us accomplish our mission of revitalizing New Haven’s neighborhoods. In this way, we are able to create a summer program that will not only meet the needs and aspirations of the student, but will also provide a substantive benefit to our organization.