Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship
Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2020

- Organization: Y2Y New Haven, a joint initiative of Y2Y Network and Youth Continuum

- Full street address of organization (Fellows must be provided with a desk and computer at placement site and cannot work remotely): Y2Y New Haven, 396 Orange Street, New Haven, CT

- Website: y2ynetwork.org

- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor (the supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis): Sam Greenberg, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Y2Y Network

- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor: sam@y2ynetwork.org

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

- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe:
  Yes. The Fellow may choose to work any 9 (or more) consecutive weeks between Tuesday, May 26 and Friday, August 7.

- Proposed work schedule (placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week): Monday-Friday 9 AM – 5 PM, with 1 hour lunch breaks daily

Placement Description

- Organization description
  Y2Y New Haven is a joint initiative of students across New Haven, Youth Continuum, and Y2Y Network to open a student-run overnight program for young adults (ages 18-24) experiencing homelessness in Greater New Haven. Y2Y New
Haven is based on the youth-to-youth model employed by Y2Y Harvard Square, which opened in Cambridge, MA in 2015. Y2Y’s model focuses on getting young people off the streets and into a safe environment with accessible legal aid, case management services, and medical care. This model helps young adults build sustainable pathways out of homelessness and empowers them to advocate for change. In 2019, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness identified 410 young adults ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness in Greater New Haven. Currently, only 12 youth-specific shelter beds exist in the area. Y2Y New Haven seeks to address this critical need for safe, trauma-informed spaces and effectively intervene in the cycle of chronic homelessness.

- 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 support all aspects of Y2Y New Haven’s effort to open and operate a student-run overnight program for young adults (ages 18-24) experiencing homelessness in Greater New Haven as we will be entering the final stages of the site’s renovation.

- 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.)

Y2Y New Haven Overview:
Y2Y New Haven is a joint initiative of students from across New Haven, Youth Continuum, and Y2Y Network to open a student-run program for young adults (ages 18-24) experiencing homelessness in Greater New Haven. Y2Y New Haven is based on the youth-to-youth model employed by Y2Y Harvard Square, the nation’s first student-run homeless shelter for young adults, which was opened in Cambridge, MA in 2015.

Young adults often experience homelessness because of abusive or neglectful families, rejection due to their sexual orientation/gender identity (40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ), or because they've aged out of the foster care system without adequate supports. Many youth feel unsafe staying in adult shelters, resorting instead to couch surfing, sleeping on the streets or in abandoned buildings, or engaging in unsafe behavior in exchange for a place to sleep. This results in a high risk of trauma with long-term implications for neurocognitive development as well as mental and physical health. Young adults
experiencing homelessness have indicated that they feel safer, are more willing to accept help, confide in staff, and stay at a shelter when they are in a youth-led space.

In 2019, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness estimated that there are 410 young adults (ages 18-24) in Greater New Haven who are experiencing homelessness. There are currently only 12 youth-specific shelter beds in Greater New Haven. We believe that this comprehensive, youth-to-youth model can address the critical need for a safe, trauma-informed program for young adults in New Haven and serve as an effective intervention point in the cycle of chronic homelessness.

Y2Y New Haven will be a program of Youth Continuum and Y2Y Network. Youth Continuum provides the most comprehensive services to youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Connecticut. Youth Continuum supports New Haven’s most vulnerable youth and their families, protecting and promoting their well-being through emergency, residential, and community services, through a comprehensive continuum of resources, Youth Continuum supports youth in exiting homelessness and accomplishing their goals. Y2Y New Haven will be housed in Youth Continuum’s renovated Drop In Center at 924 Grand Avenue.

Y2Y Network is building student-led programming to interrupt the cycle of homelessness for a generation of young adults. Y2Y Network employs a youth-to-youth model to provide a safe and affirming environment for young adults 18-24 experiencing homelessness. Y2Y guests have opportunities to collaborate with service providers, other youth experiencing homelessness, and student volunteers to create sustainable pathways out of homelessness and develop skills for long-term success. Y2Y provides opportunities for both guests and volunteers to become the next generation’s leading advocates for youth-driven solutions to homelessness.

History
Y2Y Harvard Square opened in December 2015 to address a critical community need: the lack of beds for young adults experiencing homelessness. Y2Y catalyzed the Cambridge and Boston community to develop and build an innovative, student-run model that provides safe and affirming crisis housing to young people. Y2Y’s work has been featured in the Boston Globe, National Public Radio, The Huffington Post, and NowThis. Y2Y’s strategic and foundation partners include MassChallenge, The Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation, the Harvard
Innovation Lab, Social Innovation Forum and TUGG. Y2Y is proud to have been honored by the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network and New England Business Association.

Since 2016, Y2Y New Haven's student team has stewarded this joint initiative between Y2Y Network and Youth Continuum. Under the guidance from Dwight Hall at Yale, the initial core team identified potential community partners. The student team is composed of a Steering Committee, workstream members, a Pilot Program, and Youth Decision Making Board members. Students represent Yale, University of New Haven, and Quinnipiac University. These students are involved in every single aspect of this project, from developing the program model and liaising with institutional partners to building relationships with key community stakeholders, designing the shelter, and raising funds.

**Position Overview**
This position is an excellent opportunity for anyone seeking to gain hands-on experience in non-profit startup and management and refine their leadership, communication, and management skills. While the Fellow should be independent and self-directed, they will receive strong support and guidance throughout the summer. Working closely with the Y2Y New Haven student team and with Y2Y co-founder Sam Greenberg, the Fellow will be responsible for continuing the momentum of the project through the summer and laying a strong foundation to open Y2Y New Haven in late 2020.

The Fellow will be joining the Y2Y New Haven project at a critical and exciting moment. During the summer, we plan on preparing for the opening of Y2Y New Haven in the fall of 2020 by finalizing the program model, service partnerships, and the staffing model of the program. In the summer of 2020, we will be in the home stretch! We will be going through the renovation process for our site and building on the groundwork that this project has established over the past three years to open and operate the overnight program.

Possible Job Responsibilities (depending on Fellow’s experience and preferences):

- Line up service partnerships for the program, including case management services, legal aid, medical care, and mental health services
- Continue to build close partnerships with other schools in New Haven, including Gateway Community College, Southern Connecticut State University, Albertus Magnus, and the University of New Haven
- Support the raising of capital and operating funding for the shelter
- Aid in coordinating the program’s site renovation
• Develop recruiting campaigns and training schedules for the program’s staff and volunteers
• Develop transportation and logistics systems to bring volunteers to the program location and manage in-kind donations (food, supplies, clothing)
• Maintain existing partnerships with key community stakeholders and cultivate new ones
• Strengthen organizational relationships with Youth Continuum, Dwight Hall at Yale, Y2Y Network, and the Yale College Dean’s Office
• Support engagement with young adults with lived experience of homelessness and ensure that their voices continue to play a vital role in shaping the program’s development
• Support ad-hoc projects as they arise
• Ensure a smooth transition for the fall semester

• List specific skills/experience required for the project:

Required qualifications:
  · Dedicated interest in Y2Y New Haven’s mission to build a safe, trauma-informed and thoughtful space for young adults experiencing homelessness
  · Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
  · Ability to work both independently and collaboratively
  · Excellent written and verbal communication skills
  · Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to communicate effectively and professionally
  · Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite

Desired/Preferred qualifications:
  · Prior experience in working with homelessness, at risk young people, LGBTQ population, or other related populations
  · A demonstrated commitment to public service and social justice

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

None.

• 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.

During the summer of 2019, Y2Y New Haven was so grateful to have the opportunity to work with a Yale PPSF Fellow, Nicky Brussel Faria. Nicky worked on many exciting projects including providing administrative support, establishing and strengthening partnerships, engaging with young adults with lived experiences with homelessness, fostering community support for the program, and assisting with the process for getting zoning approval for the renovation of the program’s site. Nicky was absolutely amazing, and we would be so lucky to have another fellow this summer!