The Intelligencer

Foundations Community Partnership Interns Include 16 College Students from Bucks

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By Adrian Sipes, staff writer

For Ryan Devlin and Marissa Cubbage, their decision to intern with nonprofit service agencies this summer has resulted in personal growth and a stronger connection to the local community.

"I feel like I developed as a person as I did this internship. I realized the work that went into nonprofits ... and how much nonprofits have an impact on the entire nation," Devlin, 19, said. "It's amazing how much you can make a difference."

Cubbage and Devlin are two of 16 college students from Bucks County who were selected this year by the Foundations Community Partnership, a local organization supporting behavioral health and human service needs, to participate in its annual 10-week, for-credit Summer Youth Corps internship program.

Starting in June, the students were placed with area nonprofits that focus primarily on servicing children, youth and families. Some of the students' designated nonprofits do not correlate with the degrees they are pursuing, but the hands-on learning experience and classroom discussions — also known as service-learning — is priceless.

"When you can take things in the classroom and apply them the next day in the workplace, that's really learning," Cubbage, 19, said. The Foundation attributes the internship program's success to this type of learning.

Cubbage, a Quakertown resident, was placed with the Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Perkasie. She's pursuing an environmental science degree at Juniata College.

"It's more personal development than career-driven," Cubbage said, adding she'd never worked with horses prior to her internship. "That has been challenging, but also has been pretty awesome."

The equestrian center advertises that it provides therapy for individuals with cognitive, physical, emotional, behavioral and psychological needs.

Devlin, a Doylestown native and engineering major at Purdue University, said Summer Youth Corps likely won't be the last time he gets involved with a nonprofit.

"Who knows, maybe 20 or 30 years down the road I may be sitting on the board of a nonprofit," he said. Other Summer Youth Corps interns are listed below.

- Pooja Ghandi Warminster
- Jade Hebling Doylestown
- Ankita Patel Bensalem
- Madeleine Weick New Hope
- Jamie Driscoll Yardley
- Vlad Chutchev Jamison
- Morgan Bryan Doylestown
- Nicholas Parsons Sellersville
- · Cassandra Alexander Jamison
- · Jessye Kurtz Lahaska
- Danielle Stark Quakertown
- Catherine Stanell Coopersburg
- Kailey McCrorey Doylestown
- Shaina Shikoff Richboro

For more information about the Foundation, visit <u>www.fcpartnership.org</u>. Adrian Sipes: 215-345-3147; email: <u>asipes@calkins.com</u>; Twitter: @IntellSipes