

2019 NANAY Student Internship Program

Background:

The predecessor of the current Student Internship Youth Program was spread headed by Evelyn Bruce and has been a staple at the NANAY Community Center for many years. The Youth Program has evolved over the years and has incorporated many positive community outreach activities. Although the program experienced a brief sabbatical for a few years, it was enthusiastically revived by new NANAY Community members, Judith Blasco and Andrew Hoo, in 2015, through a partnership with their organization, A New Start. As a part of their core commitments of incorporated positive youth interactions with gainful career skills, these new NANAY Youth Community members are of all races and economic backgrounds. Student ages range from 16 years-old to 25 years old.

Initially, these new youth members learned about culinary skills and were introduced to Asian food. In addition, they also learned the value of Civic Engagement, the power of their vote, and the governmental and political process. Over time, their roles have grown exponentially in the NANAY Community Center to include administrative duties, learning from the NANAY Elders, assisting with events and programs, and helping keep the NANAY Center clean and well maintained. These Career Development experiences are also tied to their grade. College students can earn up to 30% of their class grade through this program and high school students can earn honors credit during the regular school year and during the summer, college credit through a special summer program. During a Regular Board Meeting in 2016/2017, the students were recognized as a pivotal resource to the NANAY Community Center and Judith Blasco and Andrew Hoo were thanked for their efforts in coordinating the students by the entire NANAY Board of Directors.



2019 Accomplishments:

Currently, the program has achieved a cumulative, 125 student interactions and incorporates the local Colleges of Barry University, Miami Dade College, Florida International University and local

high schools. Nursing majors such as Leidy Diaz and Blanca Ramirez of Miami Dade College have created their own exercise routines and led group exercises with the NANAY elders. Their exercises are well received, in line with their major, and bring a focus on healthy lifestyles in the Community Center aside from the usual bingo games. Barry University students such as Christopher Alonso (Accounting major) and Imari Johnson (Nursing major) bring a focus on operations and helped out with the various programs offered in the NANAY Community Center such as Tax Preparation, Housing Counseling, and Computer Classes. Overall, all of the students have learned about various social issues affecting our local community and when they complete their time with us, they have gained transferable employment skills in the areas of hard work, organizational skills, social services, customer service, and graduate level research, which are applicable to any career field they will seek in the future.

Reported By: Andree Hoo, Program Coordinator