

Hannah A. Nieberding  
735 University Ave  
Sewanee, TN 37383  
[niebeha0@sewanee.edu](mailto:niebeha0@sewanee.edu)  
(267)-885-9315

Intercultural Family Services  
8540 Verree Rd,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Hannah Nieberding and it is with great excitement that I am applying to the position of Adolescent Drug & Alcohol Case Manager at CORA. I am currently a senior at Sewanee: the University of the South, a small liberal arts school in Tennessee. I am an Anthropology major with a certificate in Creative Writing. While I attended school in the south, I was born and raised in the greater Philadelphia area and hope to return home to build a career in social work and foster hope and change within my community.

I have worked two jobs my entire college career, holding varying positions in the University itself as a student employee while simultaneously working as a manager at a local restaurant, Shenanigans, which has been a staple of the small town community since 1974. I have worked in the food service industry since I was seventeen years old, and have maintained employment at several establishments over summers and breaks. I am an eager learner and a hard worker, and value any opportunity to engage in community and conversation, which has made me very successful in the service industry.

I had the incredible opportunity to conduct my thesis research in Medellin, Colombia the spring of my junior year. I studied development in post-conflict societies through courses at Centro Catalina International Language School, and participated in volunteer service at Bien Humano, one of the oldest non-profits in Colombia. It is here that I conducted my thesis research interviewing over twenty women who were leaders and members of UTRASD - the Union for Afro-Colombian Domestic Workers. This group of women are predominantly displaced due to the violence and conflict in the country, and are overall an extremely marginalized population. I worked with the organization as both a volunteer in the office translating material and assisting day to day programs, as well as to produce an ethnographic study aimed to establish a need for services beyond labor rights for Afro-Colombian domestic workers. It is through this experience that my love of service and community outreach developed into a deep passion and devotion to social work and advocacy for families.

I have engaged in many opportunities for service while at Sewanee. Blue Monarch is a charitable organization who works with women and children struggling with addiction, domestic violence, and economic crisis. I have worked to volunteer and fundraise for their programs through many events on campus. I have worked in several of the local elementary schools as a classroom assistant and after school program volunteer. I have also sat on the Auxiliary Board of the Bairnwick Women's Center.

Through my professional experience I have learned to be calm among chaos, to lead with actions, and that community has no strangers. Through my research experiences I have learned the resilience of humanity, and the necessity for empathy. In my volunteer work I have learned dignity is a right. I believe I can bring valuable experience and perspective to the position, and I believe the opportunity to work for and with CORA would be invaluable to me. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about my application to the position and thank you for considering me to be a part of your team. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Nieberding