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Off the Streets

University of Cincinnati Department of
Family and Community Medicine

Tender Mercies

Welcome House Northern Kentucky

**Thank you to our
generous 2019-2020 funders!**

**Western & Southern
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Thomas J. Kunkel, MD
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**Thank you to
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UHP

Urban Health Project 2020 Summer Summary



2020 marks the 34th year Urban Health Project has served the Greater Cincinnati Community. As summer comes to an end, we would like to congratulate our interns on their hard work and share a brief summary of their accomplishments.

This summer, UHP placed 21 interns with 19 community partners spread across Southwestern Ohio and Northern Kentucky. Our interns worked with diverse populations within our community. Over the course of eight weeks, our interns provided over 5000 hours of service, directly impacting over 5000 individuals, and made a \$90,000 impact through their service to our partner organizations.

UHP interns developed new projects aimed at quality improvement and community service. For example, interns developed community resources brochures and maps for individuals struggling with homelessness, ran workshops on nutrition, exercise, and sex education for women in treatment for addiction, and researched the impact of COVID-19 on diverse populations in our community.

Throughout the summer, interns have reflected on how their experiences will impact their future medical practice. Interns have described being inspired by the resilience of youth in the foster care system, challenged by the barriers facing people battling homelessness and addiction, and empowered to champion and care for the underserved in their careers.

We hope their experience will remain etched in their hearts as they live their commitment to community as compassionate caregivers.

Maddy VandenBrink and Eunice Agyapong
2020 Co-directors



Summer 2020 Events

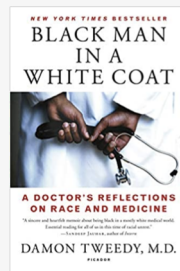
Virtual Social Justice Walking Tour of OTR

Dr. Mark Mussman from The Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition guided UHP interns virtually through the rapidly changing streets of OTR to learn how neighborhood transition and gentrification is impacting the homeless population and affordable housing. The tour was followed by discussions on the impact and magnitude of social aspects on health, and how we can better advocate for our patients as future physicians. To end the event, we played some Cincinnati themed trivia, for interns to learn more about the greater Cincinnati area.



Social Determinants of Health Book Club Discussion

UHP hosted a summer book club lead by UC Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine and UHP board member Dr. Joseph Kiesler. Interns read 'Black Man in a White Coat' by Dr. Damon Tweedy and engaged in a lively discussion of the book's themes surrounding race, health disparities, poverty, education, policing, and substance abuse.



Committed to Community

Interns virtually presented posters sharing their summer service projects to UCCOM faculty and staff, UHP board members and funders, site supervisors and partners, and many other members of the community. Dr. Robert Neel, Associate Professor of Neurology and Director of the Cincinnati Comprehensive ALS clinic, served as our keynote speaker. A recording of this year's event can be found on [Youtube](#).



2020 Award Winners

Outstanding Service Project Award – Matt Altman

Matt worked with City Gospel Mission, a shelter that helps men experiencing homelessness reach stability. Matt held weekly classes to educate men in the shelter on the importance of mask wearing, and myths about the COVID-19 virus. Matt was excited to see more men engaging in positive health behaviors, including mask wearing, after attending his classes. He was nominated by the UHP interns for his lasting impact on individuals experiencing homelessness in Cincinnati.



"Meeting this man and hearing his story reminds me why I chose to work at a shelter this summer, and why it is so important to work to help those overlooked by society – because one day all that work might really allow someone to change their life."
-Matt Altman



"While getting to know these teenagers and their stories, I realized that they have been through more traumatic events than most of the people I am surrounded by in my life. It has truly changed the way I think about people I don't personally know."

-Anna Edwards

Committed to Community – Alexandra Gillotte, Ashley Mills & Kyler Wilson

Alexandra, Ashley and Kyler worked at Crossroad Health Center, a federally qualified, primary care health center that serves low income populations in OTR and the greater Cincinnati area. This summer, they helped to administer social determinants of health surveys for patients at CHC. They collected data and provided free resources to patients based on their survey results. Using the data they compiled throughout the summer, they were able to determine the three greatest needs of CHC patients, as well as the zip codes and PCPs with patients in the most need. These interns were nominated by their site supervisor who says that she has been humbled "to see their incredible commitment to serving those most in need with compassion and dignity."



"My hope is that as a society we could grow in an understanding that our bodies and health are deeply connected to the social environments we find ourselves in. As such, it is important for people to be educated about how to create a social environment that's best for them and then supplied with the necessary resources by the medical community."

-Kyler Wilson