



Position Title	Storytelling Advocacy Intern
Organization	Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care
Department	
Address	PO Box 3643, Fayetteville, AR 72702
Supervisor Name	Steve Burt
Supervisor Contact	steve@nwacoc.com (479) 717-7737

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

- A. **BACKGROUND CHECKS:** This position requires the individual be fingerprinted so that.
- a. The agency may perform a Federal criminal background check prior to hire
- B. **ELIGIBILITY**
- a. Be a currently enrolled undergraduate student who will be returning to college as a full-time (12 credit hours) sophomore, junior or senior in the fall of 2020.
 - b. Submit written enrollment verification from their college or university confirming the student’s enrollment status to the United Way of Northwest Arkansas
- C. **WORK SCHEDULE & CONDITIONS**
- a. This is a temporary full time (35 hours per week) position.
 - b. Normal work hours are Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm business hours, but may require occasional evenings or weekends.
 - c. This position is not eligible for sick, vacation, and holiday leave during employment.
 - d. Physical Conditions: (see Qualifications)
- D. **BENEFITS**
- a. Salary - The individual shall receive a \$3,200 salary distributed bi-weekly in equal amounts for the duration of the internship.
 - b. Onsite supervision for all interns
 - c. Work-related mileage reimbursement
 - d. Professional Development – The United Way of Northwest Arkansas will provide an in-person orientation and three professional development opportunities to the employee.
 - e. Community-wide trainings and orientation through The Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care, CoC Member organizations, HARK, and other community partner organizations, specifically pertaining to:
 1. The state of homelessness in the Northwest Arkansas, Arkansas and the country;
 2. Northwest Arkansas’s response to end homelessness including Coordinated Entry, the By-Name-List and dynamic prioritization.
 3. Sheltered, unsheltered, chronic, Veteran, Youth and homelessness created by domestic violence and sex trafficking.
 4. Coalition building, collaborative networking and collective impact as they relate to data driven social service problem solving.

5. Motivational Interviewing and basic listening skills to illicit rapport building for maximum self-reporting.
6. Technical and artistic photography skill building.
7. Impactful writing strategies to illicit reader identification.

E. EVALUATIONS

The employee will receive an evaluation of their performance at the end of their employment from their direct supervisor. The evaluation also includes a self-evaluation and program evaluation.

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. POSITION PURPOSE

The purpose of this internship and project is to share the real-lived experiences of those living without a home. This intern will use photography and storytelling techniques to share the truth about homelessness and advance Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care advocacy work to grow our impact. This project's long-lasting goal is to not only invoke feelings of solidarity within the Northwest Arkansas community, but to use these stories to incite action to end homelessness.

B. DUTIES

Community Engagement:

1. Activates

- a. Meet with 20 selected individuals to interview or ask to share their stories about their real lived experiences of homelessness.
- b. Provide a summary of the, activities, and experiences of those experiencing homelessness using photography and storytelling techniques. Highlighting the barriers and resiliencies.
- c. Help individuals to better understand their own experience, help them find the strength to share their voice, and gain confidence in the power of that voice through the project.
- d. Works to engage the voice, experience, and expertise of people experiencing homelessness
- e. Acknowledge and show how experiences were influenced by policies or social realities to help the audience understand why homelessness exists and how it can end.
- f. Through the interviewing process, identify what resources would have helped prevent the experience of homelessness
- g. Create an influence through the advocacy work and help the organization become more effective in advocating for change and better outcomes for those experiencing homelessness.

C. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- a. Storytelling is an opportunity to use personal experiences for the greater social impact of changing how people view homelessness and people experiencing homelessness. These exchanges are chances to expand the perspectives of those within the community and shed light on the social causes and solutions to homelessness.
- b. The humanizing nature of these stories will excite and invite community members to be actively engaged in ending homelessness.
- c. Provide a guide to create better and more informed policy making decisions not only within the organization but also within the local, state, and federal government. Elected officials use stories to understand how policies affect constituents. Stories have an impact on their decisions, and therefore on our laws and communities.
- d. The interns impact will enhance the NWA CoC's capacity towards ending chronic homelessness by 2025.

QUALIFICATIONS

Prefer interns with a passion for art and advocacy. The successful candidate will drive new ideas and always has an eye for quality and the ability to improve storytelling techniques. Additionally, the applicant should show an interest in nonprofit work and/or working with those in need. Students who are currently pursuing a degree in Photography, Communications, Marketing, Social Work, Public Relations, Journalism, and everything in between.

- a. Passion for Continuum of Care's mission and the belief that homelessness is a solvable challenge.
- b. Understanding of strategic sharing methods, integrated marketing techniques, and/or the importance of effective advocacy work.
- c. Excellent written and verbal communication skills; ability to establish rapport
- d. Ability to interact with others in a positive and energetic manner
- e. A strong sense of and respect for confidentiality involving clients
- f. Ability to work in a variety of settings with culturally diverse families and communities with the ability to be culturally sensitive and appropriate.
- g. Valid driver's license, current auto insurance, and reliable personal transportation is required
- h. Ability to lift up to 50 pounds
- i. Students with lived-experience in foster care, housing insecurity or homelessness or involvement with the criminal justice system are encouraged to apply.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- a. The intern will learn about the art of storytelling as it has become an important component of building a personal branding strategy as workers attempt to stand out in a competitive employment market.
- b. Intern will be able to articulate how policies at the community, state and federal levels impact client's self-determination in local areas.
- c. Intern will learn community engagement strategies and tools that will quantifiably benefit nonprofit work with health and human services.
- d. The intern will gain experience in event marketing, media relations, and the role of social media within the context of non-profit work.
- e. Intern will become knowledgeable about the importance that a positive reputation is more about brand's awareness than just the services it provides.
- f. The intern will learn and understand the importance of how Integrated marketing communication plays an integral role in communicating brand messages to a larger audience. Integrated Marketing communication helps in integrating all essential components of marketing to communicate a similar message to potential and existing end-users.
- g. Intern will develop a deeper understanding of the scope of homelessness in the Northwest Arkansas community as well as evidence-based-practices that brings an end to homelessness nationwide.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- a. The intern will learn motivational interviewing skills that will allow them to practice reflective listening
- b. The intern will be able to sharpen their active listening and communication skills that will allow them to build connections, build trust, identify problems, and increase their knowledge about various topics.

- c. The intern will learn Public Relations skills by maintaining, fostering and improving relations between those experiencing homelessness, service providers, and the audience.
- d. The intern will gain skills in systems advocacy by taking action to influence social, political, and economic systems to bring about change for groups of people.
- e. The intern will be able to develop their creative thinking skills and their ability to perceive patterns that are not obvious.

PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- a. The intern will develop an understanding of human rights advocacy
- b. Intern will develop an increased confidence presenting in public settings and engaging the community.
- c. Intern will improve professionalism, critical thinking and communication skills
- d. The intern will advance their skills to develop effective working relationships, an ability to work independently and as a team member.
- e. Intern will learn how to handle tense and difficult interpersonal situations with full empathy and professionalism.
- f. Intern will be given new perspectives that will give them the space to set aside any assumptions or biases they may have, and look at things in a completely new way.
- g. Reflect on tools and examples of empowerment and participation of people in homeless services
- h. Interns learn how to effectively contribute ideas to process improvements and other procedures of the team goals which result in improved quality, efficiency, expediency and advocacy.

SIGNATURE (this will be signed at the point of employment with the student)

Employee Name	Supervisor Name
Employee Signature	Supervisor Signature
Signature Date	Signature Date