

Diversity Draws Interns to St. Leo's (Part One)

The wonderful diversity at St. Leo's makes it an exciting place for interns to learn their crafts in a multicultural setting without having to leave the country. This year, we will be blessed by social work interns from the University of Cincinnati; a lay pastoral ministry intern from the Athenaeum; student nurses from the University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash; and osteopathic physician interns through Health Source of Ohio. Other internships are still in the works. This month we feature our Social Work Interns:

Natasha Lovely and Jocelin Morrow, senior social work students at the University of Cincinnati, will be working with us 16 hours a week from the end of August through May, 2015. Parishioner Jon Trauth, an independently licensed social worker, will be their clinical supervisor but both will work with all of the parish staff to provide advocacy, connection, and support to residents of the entire community. As part of this process they will be working with other service providers in the neighborhood, including our food pantry, other churches, schools, and rec centers.

Both Natasha and Jocelin were attracted to interning at St. Leo's because it offered a place where faith and social work goals met. Our mission statement of living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy was a perfect fit for both of them.

Natasha, a native of Columbia whose first language is Spanish, is looking forward to working with the Guatemalan community as well as refugees and others in the community. She's worked with Mission Youth, an international organization that enables youth to grow in their faith while doing missionary work in their own communities. Currently she's working on preparing for World Youth Day 2015 in Poland.

Jocelin, who was born in Dayton and lived in North Carolina for awhile, has worked with international students at the University of Cincinnati and has served as a Life Forward volunteer, a group that educates, supports, and encourages women to make positive life choices. She's excited about helping refugees in their transition to life in a new country and providing support to others in the community struggling with problems.

—Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate

Top photo provided by Natasha Lovely

