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Reflection
Center for Family Life
Summer 2004

My internship at the Center for Family Life (CFL) was a positive experience both professionally and socially.

The staff made an effort to expose me to different kinds of work the organization undertakes in order to be successful. I sat in on staff meetings as well as larger group meetings. I noticed that once I proved myself as being responsible and invested in their programs, I was trusted by a variety of people.

I began the internship by developing the CFL's newsletter which helped me to better understand how the programs operate, who coordinates what, etc. My supervisor for this project took time to explain the software program, Microsoft Publisher, which we were using. It would have taken her less time to do the newsletter herself as she was familiar with the program, but she had many other responsibilities which did not permit her to do so. As a result, she gave me the skills to work on the newsletter independently. I began to integrate myself into the community by taking photos and doing interviews with the children and staff.

The second part of my internship consisted of developing a puppet theater program. The children and I made a theater as well as puppets and backdrops for different scenes. I developed scripts with them which were based on children's stories. We also took a trip to Puppetworks, a local marionette company in Brooklyn. I

worked consistently with seven kids who ranged from six to thirteen years of age. It was beautiful to help this group develop as the older children helped the younger ones to paint, to put puppets together and to read their lines; it was certainly a collaborative effort.

I learned that within large social and community based programs there are specific jobs which target different members of the community. While I enjoyed working with these children and their parents, I think I would like to try organizing in a way that reaches more people. In this internship I cut up a lot of construction paper to make puppets. In the future I would like to teach other people how to do this kind of work so that such services may reach more people.