



**Reese Laaveg**  
*Creative Care for Reaching  
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# 2026 Summer Internship Celebration

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# PaY



PaY is modeled after Youth in Philanthropy (YiP), an initiative of The Winnipeg Foundation, and each year we build upon this partnership with new initiatives of our own. In our 19th year of the program, 21 area high schools received \$6,000 to use for grantmaking in the community—totaling 135 grants to 91 organizations.

Run in partnership with regional schools, student-led committees identify areas of focus, research community nonprofits, and visit organizations before deciding how to award the grant funds. In March, each school committee presents their recommendations to a panel of community leaders.

PaY's motto is to inspire, lead, and share. In addition to grantmaking, students explore this through their own special projects throughout the year.

***"Our goal is to help you reach your goals."***

***- B. John Barry***



Annual Redhawks  
Forward Event  
June 12th



Launched in 2013, Philanthropy: Forward is a unique opportunity for PaY alumni to join a community of adults passionate about making a difference in their collegiate and professional careers. Forward members participate with peers in a variety of programs and experiences through The Barry Foundation.

Throughout the year, Forward hosts educational and social events to reconnect fellow PaY alumni; scholarship opportunities are available for those who participate in these activities.

# PaY Summer Internship Program

In 2009, The Barry Foundation established the PaY Summer Internship Program, designed to build on the nonprofit experience students receive in Philanthropy and Youth (PaY). Through the internships, students gain meaningful summer employment and learn about all facets of a nonprofit's operations while the local organizations gain capacity.

PaY Summer Internship grants are provided through a competitive process to nonprofit organizations in the Fargo-Moorhead and Minnesota lakes regions. Each recipient organization is matched with a PaY student who is hired to work on a special project designed by the organization. Throughout the summer, mentoring guidance is provided to the student by both the host organizations and The Barry Foundation.

Starting in 2010, community partners have furthered the growth of the PaY Internship Program by providing funding for additional internship grants. This has increased the capacity of the program and made a direct impact on our community.

Paused between 2020-2022, the Foundation relaunched this impactful program in the summer of 2023.

## PaY Leadership Day

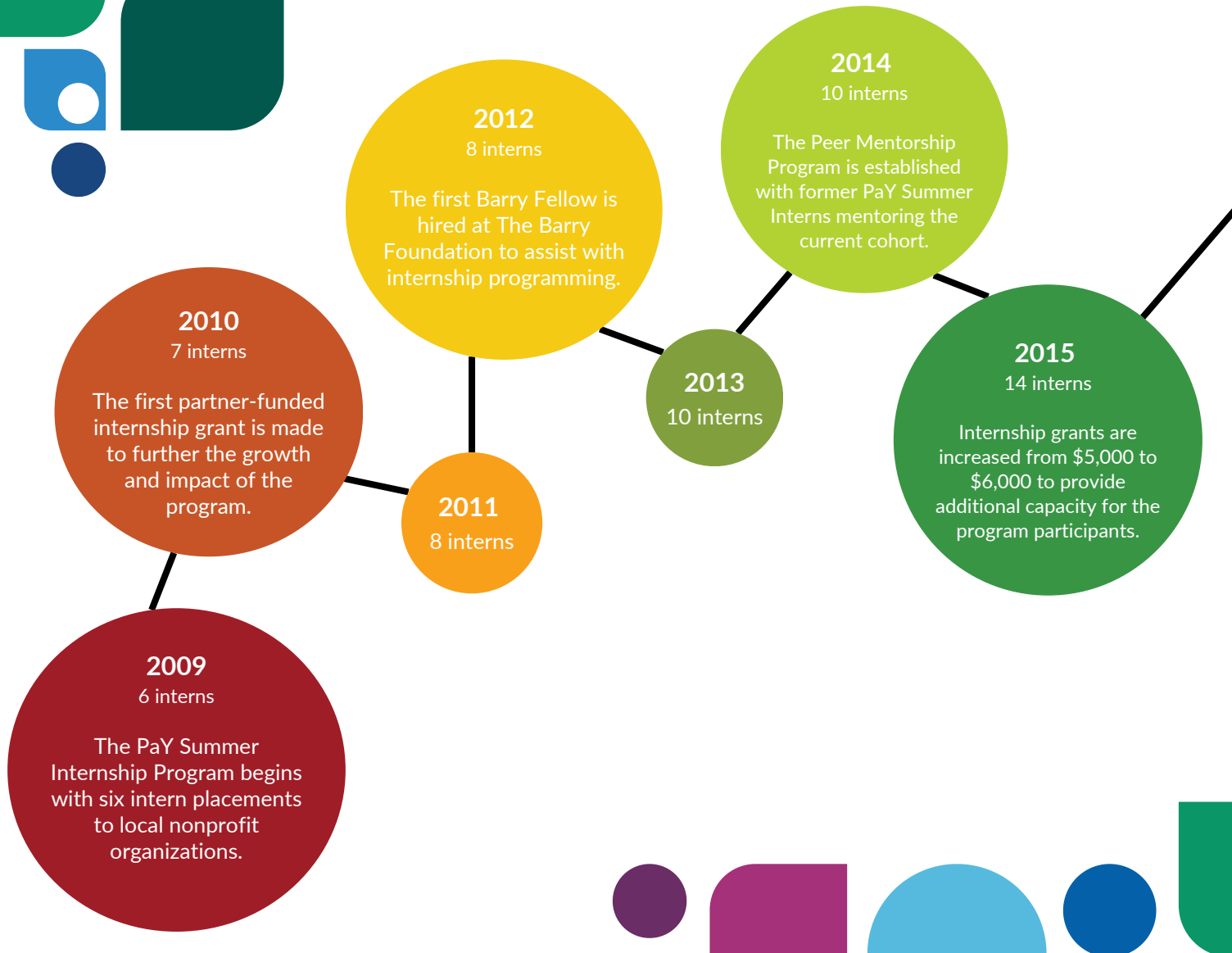
On July 9th, PaY Summer Interns, Mentors, and Core Team members traveled to the MN Lakes area and Castaway Club on Pelican Lake for a day of leadership development and relationship building.



PaY Summer Internship  
Program 2026



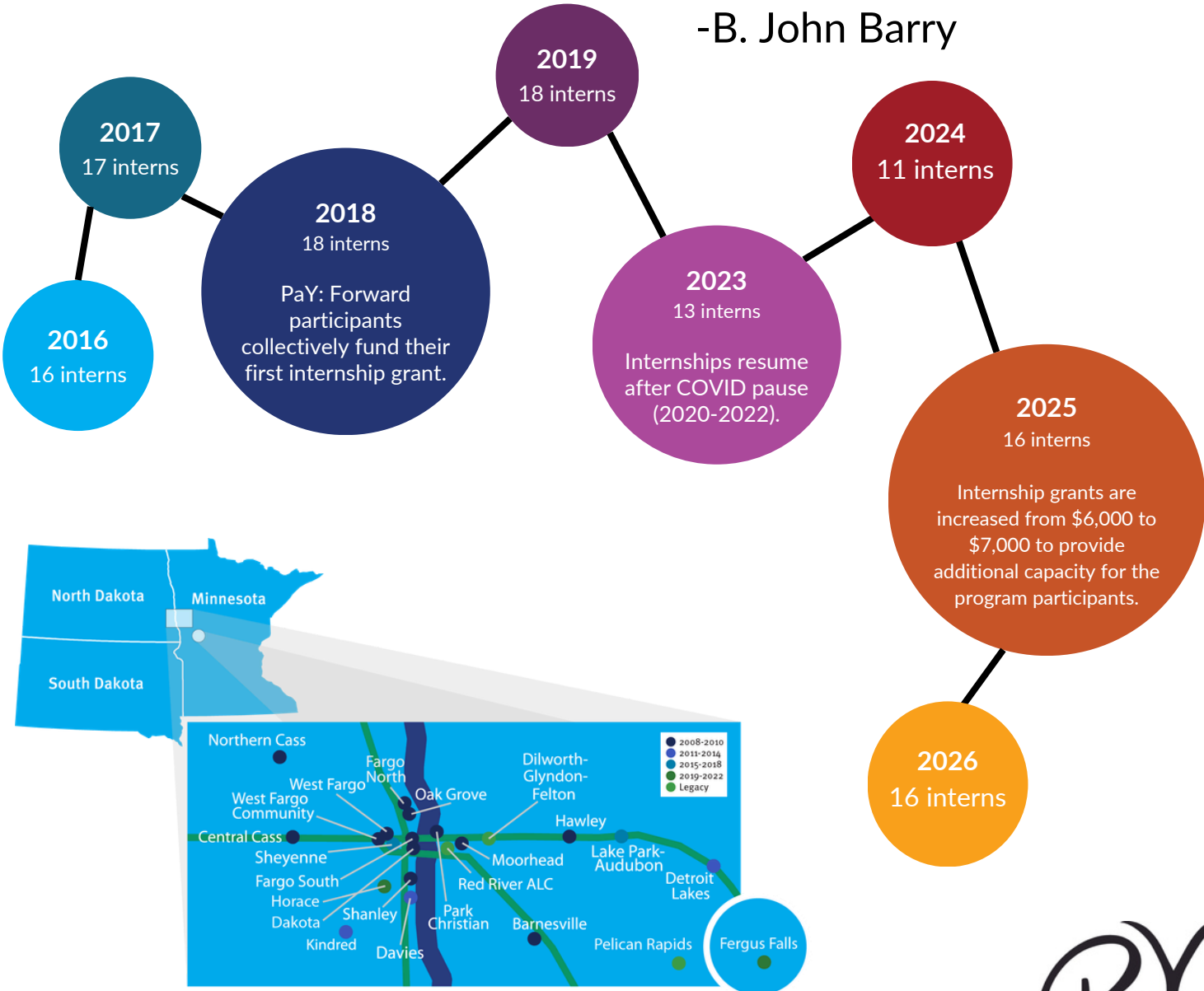
# PaY Summer Internship Celebration 2026





*"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."*

-B. John Barry



The shapes in the PaY logo represent the physical location of our partner schools along the Red River Valley. Rural and urban, North Dakota and Minnesota, public, private, and community, the PaY program is designed to meet each growing philanthropist wherever they start their journey. This map shows the starting year and history of our participating high schools.



# Reese Laaveg

Creative Care  
for Reaching  
Independence  
(CCRI)

*"Reese has been an amazing addition to our team and has accomplished so much in her short time with CCRI. Through her work on this project, Reese has built incredible relationships with our staff and the people we support. We've even had clients ask about Reese when they see me because they enjoy spending time with her so much. Her strong work ethic and passion for helping others are evident in everything she does, and CCRI is incredibly proud to have her on our team. While we'll be sad to see her internship come to an end, we have no doubt that Reese will go on to accomplish great things in her career."*

-Adam Schroeder,  
Community Engagement &  
Advancement Assistant Director

*"Reese's project is a massive undertaking, and she has embraced the challenge alongside our team. She has fully immersed herself in our mission, prioritizing building relationships and learning about CCRI's people so that she can best tell their stories. Reese's time, dedication, organization, and creativity have given our team a fantastic head start on the project that will support CCRI's storytelling efforts for all of 2027."*

-Alita Hanson,  
Community Engagement & Advancement Director

Years in PaY: 4 | High School: Northern Cass '26

Reese Laaveg is a graduate of Northern Cass and will attend North Dakota State University to study marketing in the fall. Her top Clifton strengths are strategic, analytical, and competitive. She loves spending time with her family and friends, going to the lake, sports, playing with her dog, and puzzles! She looks forward to traveling the world when she is older.

Reese's special project, 50 Stories for 50 Years, tells CCRI's story through clients, staff, families, volunteers, donors, and events.

CCRI's mission is to enhance and enrich the lives and learning of people with disabilities.



*"My time with CCRI this summer has been such a treat! I absolutely adore the people I am surrounded by each day. The passion of not only my mentors, Alita and Adam, but everyone at CCRI is in all that they do. I have learned a tremendous amount about disability services and gained a new perspective and appreciation for the population we support. It is incredibly rewarding to tell stories that otherwise would go untold, and see the genuine joy of the individuals sharing their stories."*

-Reese Laaveg, PaY Intern

"Interning with the Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. Watching people learn and become inspired has strengthened my passion for science, and the team has shown me what it truly means to love the work you do. Their mentorship and trust in me—including the opportunity to complete a project representing the museum—have helped me strengthen my skills and prepare for my future. I am forever grateful for my mentors and for The Barry Foundation, which granted me this opportunity."

-Jonnah Andrews, PaY Intern



Years in PaY: 2 | High School: Fargo Virtual Academy '26

Jonah Andrews is a graduate of Fargo Virtual Academy and an incoming freshman at North Dakota State University majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology with a minor in prelaw. She has completed an associate's degree while attending high school and maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Jonah intends to pursue a medical degree in pathology with the aspiration of positively contributing to her community.

Jonah's project was to design take-home career resources to support the museum's outreach program; these handouts featuring STEM professions aim to inspire youth. In conjunction with this project, she assisted with event preparation, facilitation, and post-event reset.

The Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum works to make science accessible and ignite the curiosity in all of us.

*"Jonah did an exceptional job during her internship and consistently went above and beyond her original project description. She supported nearly every aspect of our public programming, from summer camps and hands-on activities to mobile exhibit development and more.*

*Jonah brought fresh ideas, helped streamline activities, and improved how we prepared for and delivered programs. I don't know what we would have done without her this summer!"*

-Kayla Adamek,  
Public Programs Manager

Fargo-  
Moorhead  
Science  
Museum

# Jonah Andrews

# Ella Bourke

## Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley

*"The PAY Internship program, and Ella Bourke in particular, is the greatest thing that Farm in the Dell never knew we needed! We have been completely blown away by the number of things that Ella has been able to do! She has jumped right in to work in the garden alongside our engineers, and she has done amazing planning and creating in order to engage the greater community with the farm even more than we imagined! Ella has been a tremendous asset to our team, and we are thankful for the PAY Internship Program for sending her to us!"*

*-Matt Larson,  
Executive Director*

Years in PaY: 3 | High School: Fargo South '26

Ella Bourke is a graduate of Fargo South and has been involved in PaY for three years. Her top strengths are harmony, inclusion, and communication. She was the captain of Fargo South's girls' swim and dive and tennis teams. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has academically lettered all four years of high school, all while working as a barista. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with friends, baking, and going on walks. Ella graduated from Fargo South this spring and is planning on furthering her education at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Ella's special project centered on community engagement. She helped create recipes, recipe cards, activities for the upcoming maze, and tote bags, as well as additional items and farm projects.

Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley's mission is "transforming disabilities into abilities" through purposeful work and life experiences in a community farm setting.



*"At the farm this summer I have experienced and learned so much. I'm thankful for the guidance of Matt and everyone who taught and keeps teaching me. I appreciate the independence to learn new skills, and to take charge of my projects. I'm so grateful for this opportunity and I think I got the perfect match."*

*-Ella Bourke, PaY Intern*

"This internship taught me the importance of loving what you do and believing in the mission that drives your work. I am so grateful to have been paired with such inspiring mentors that truly care about the work they are doing. Thank you to Lora and Shirley for always checking in on me, believing in me, and challenging me to grow. I am excited to continue as a more confident, curious, driven version of myself."

-Isabel Flanagan, PaY Intern



Years in PaY: 2 | High School: Horace '27

Isabel Flanagan is a rising senior at Horace High School. She is vice president of the student council, captain of the speech & debate teams, and secretary for Key Club. Isabel is also a member of the National Honor Society and was chosen to represent Horace High School as part of the West Fargo School District Superintendent's Cabinet. She volunteers bi-weekly as a mentor to a third-grade student as part of a peer mentor program.

Isabel had multiple special projects. She created a centralized playbook of all operating procedures and created 10 SWAP Kits for the retail store. She updated the donor database and helped to plan GSDH fall Cookies, Corks, and Brews event by creating a video to promote the event.

Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons is committed to building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

"Isabel is structured and organized and consistently hits her timeline completion goals. I am so excited to see how well the products Isabel chose to bring into the stores sell. Retail is a new subject of learning for Isabel, and I feel like she knocked it out of the park."

-Lora Schoepp,  
Retail Store Manager

"It has been a true pleasure to mentor Isabel through the PaY Summer Internship Program. Watching her grow in the nonprofit world has been both rewarding and inspiring. Isabel consistently exceeded expectations, bringing professionalism, initiative, and a thoughtful approach to every project. Her genuine passion for our mission and commitment to the values of Girl Scouts made a lasting impact on our team. We are incredibly grateful for her contributions this summer and couldn't have asked for a better addition to our organization."

-Shirley Leiphon,  
Director of Development

Girl Scouts  
Dakota  
Horizons

# Isabel Flanagan

# Drew Burris

Great Plains  
Food Bank

Years in PaY: 4 | High School: Fargo North '26

Drew Burris is a graduate of Fargo North. He has been in PaY for 4 years and also served as president of his high school student council, the North Dakota Student Council State Board, and a Metro Area Student Ambassador. Next year, Drew plans to attend the University of Notre Dame, where he will major in political science and minor in biology. Drew intends to attend law school after earning his undergraduate degree.

The Great Plains Food Bank Hunger Simulation partners with the Cass Clay Hunger Coalition to show participants what food insecurity within our region truly looks like. In this simulation, you will follow one of ten neighbors through a "day in their life", dealing with obstacles while trying to obtain the necessary amount of foods/nutrients throughout the day.

Great Plains Food Bank's mission is to end hunger together, with a commitment to end hunger today, tomorrow, and for good.

*"One of the greatest gifts of mentoring is realizing it is never a one way experience. While you hope to make a difference in someone else's journey, they often leave an impact on yours too. It has been a joy watching Drew's creativity and dedication come to life through his Hunger Simulation Project. I can't wait to see all he accomplishes in his next chapter. It will no doubt be great."*

-Ashleigh Brown,  
Community Engagement Coordinator



"My time at the Great Plains Food Bank has been inspiring and fulfilling. Working alongside Ashleigh, I've been able to witness firsthand the passion and dedication of the team. My special project has been vital to my understanding of hunger and food insecurity within our community and shifted my perspective, showing me that food insecurity is far more than a "grumbling stomach." I hope that this hunger simulation will be a catalyst for years to come, reminding everyone who participates that real change begins with us."

-Drew Burris, PaY Intern



"This internship has been truly amazing. This was my first true office setting job and it's taught me invaluable communication and organization skills; it's helped me to step outside my comfort zone and how to be both a good team player and leader. I can't wait to see where the rest of my project goes after I'm gone, but I know it will give invaluable insight into our past homeowners, and how we can improve the experience in the future."

-Harrison Shewey, PaY Intern



*"Harrison has been a fantastic addition to Habitat for Humanity FM this summer. In launching our homeowner survey, his work will help inform and guide our operations for years to come. Harrison has been game for every task we've thrown his way — from folding letters, calling clients, and researching survey methods to photographing events and shooting nail guns at the tops of ladders. He's been a professional through it all."*

-Davin Wait,  
Communications Manager

Years in PaY: 3 | High School: Shanley '27

Harrison Shewey is a rising senior at Fargo Shanley. After his third year in PAY, he is excited to be a 2026 summer intern. Harrison's strengths are adaptability, futuristic, and strategic. He has served on many different leadership committees throughout his high school career.

Harrison's special project was to conduct a survey on both past and present Habitat FM homeowners about how their home affected them and their family.

Habitat for Humanity's mission is to ensure that everybody has a decent place to live.

Habitat for  
Humanity  
Fargo  
Moorhead  
Area

# Harrison Shewey



# Elsa Axtman

## Heart-n-Soul Community Cafe

*"Elsa has been an outstanding Barry Foundation PaY intern, bringing her CliftonStrengths of Communication, Significance and Analytical to every project. She asked insightful questions and offered constructive ideas as we refined policies, planned fundraising events, and developed a Giving Day campaign. Through her volunteer welcome video and her thoughtful contributions, Elsa has left a lasting legacy at Heart-n-Soul Community Cafe."*

-Leola Daul, Executive Director



Years in PaY: 3 | High School: Davies '25  
College: University of St Thomas

Elsa Axtman is a rising sophomore at the University of St. Thomas, where she studies business leadership and management with minors in studio art and entrepreneurship. On campus, she works as a small business development center student consultant and business school intern. Elsa is an active North Dakota 4-H Ambassador with national 4-H leadership experience. At St. Thomas, she holds leadership roles in the Business Undergraduate Mentorship Program and Girls Living Out Wellness Club, while also participating in the management consulting and badminton clubs.

Elsa created a new onboarding video to welcome and train incoming volunteers. After speaking with our team and current volunteers to see what would be most helpful, she wrote the script, recorded and edited the video, and provided original illustrations for the video. This project gives volunteers a warm introduction and a clear understanding of Heart-n-Soul before they come and serve.

Heart-n-Soul is dedicated to addressing food insecurity, building communities and providing delicious food to nurture body, heart, and soul.

"Being part of the Heart-n-Soul team this summer was a fulfilling way to serve my community hands-on. I got to learn, work within, and improve our daily operations while seeing how so many moving parts come together to create change. Between creating new tools, getting to know our neighbors, and building connections with our volunteers, it was an experience that was good for my own heart and soul."

-Elsa Axtman, PaY Intern

"This summer internship has been an experience I will always be grateful for. From day one, I felt welcomed, supported, and encouraged to learn. Working alongside my mentors and the philanthropy team gave me a deeper understanding of the impact that thoughtful giving has on individuals and communities. The relationships I built, the lessons I learned, and the confidence I gained throughout this experience have inspired me both personally and professionally. I am excited to carry those lessons forward in my future career."  
-Lauren Hagen, PaY Intern



Years in PaY: 1 | High School: Moorhead High School '27

Lauren Hagen is a rising senior at Moorhead High School with a strong interest in community service and interpersonal skills. She is an experienced volunteer, involved with her church, community, and school. She participates in sports, loves to read, and spends time with her family. Lauren will bring responsibility and accountability to a future employer, and hopes to learn additional ways to serve others.

Lauren's special project was to assist in HIA's Lunch & Learn series, which are free events open to both professionals and community members. She also supported the GiveMN campaign and donor stewardship efforts to help engage and thank the people who make HIA Health's work possible.

HIA Health's mission is to provide comfort and care through life's journey, focusing on enhancing the quality of life for patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

*"Lauren jumped into our summer internship with professionalism beyond her years.*

*We have been blessed to have her talents and enthusiasm helping us to fill a critical need in coordinating our*

*"Lunch and Learn" program as well as being a true teammate in all aspects of our philanthropy department. She has a great future ahead of her and we will be cheering her on all the way."*

-Mike Meyer, Director of Philanthropy

-Meghanne Widmer, Annual Gifts Officer

HIA Health

# Lauren Hagen

# Addison Bock

Historical and  
Cultural  
Society of  
Clay County

*"Addi couldn't have been a better addition to the museum team! She jumped right in like she was already part of the museum family with the maturity, professionalism, and work ethic to match. Addi's work will make a long-lasting difference for our visitors both now and in the future as our museum evolves. I have so enjoyed mentoring and working beside her through her project."*

-Nina Flippance,  
Visitor Services & Retail Manager



Years in PaY: 4 | High School: Davies '26

Addison Bock is a graduate of Davies High School. She will be attending the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, in the fall, hoping to major in communications with a minor in museum and curatorial studies. She has been actively involved in PaY for four years. When Addison is not engaged in philanthropy, you may find her at a coffee shop, running, or enjoying a crafty project.

Addison's special project was to create wayfinding at HCSCC to improve how visitors navigate the museum confidently and with less confusion. She researched real visitor behavior, identified points of confusion, and designed a clearer, more intuitive wayfinding system.

The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the history and culture of Clay County, Minnesota.

*"Having the opportunity to be an intern at HCSCC opened my eyes to a new world. I learned insider information of how nonprofits work, and connected with my mentor as well as staff, who made it feel like home. Research and data played a big part in my project; navigating that is something I will take with me in my future years. Additionally, getting to see the future implementation and process of my wayfinding project here come to life has been beyond rewarding."*

-Addison Bock, PaY Intern

"My project was so much more than a website, and the knowledge I gained about Hometown HOPE and their programs throughout the summer has opened my eyes to the hard work nonprofits put in to support their neighbors. My internship gave me an amazing workplace experience full of support and encouragement. Hometown HOPE is full of kind and helpful people, and I am truly grateful for the relationships I made this the summer."

-Hazel Schmidt, PaY Intern



Years in PaY: 1 | High School: Moorhead High School '27

Hazel Schmidt is a rising senior at Moorhead High School. She is bilingual in Spanish and English. She is involved in PaY, the leadership group, orchestra, volleyball, track & field, and is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Fargo. She plans to attend college after graduation and is of high academic standing. Hazel enjoys card-making and spending time outside.

Hazel developed a website for Hometown HOPE to extend their reach past Facebook. Along with the website, she created an intentional branding template for future marketing needs in order to stay recognizable with specific colors and fonts.

Hometown HOPE (Helping Others Provide Enrichment) has a thrift store and food pantry located in Hendrum, Minnesota. They offer nutritious meals, affordable goods, and essential support services to neighbors in our community.

*"The opportunity to be involved in the PaY Summer Internship has been such a blessing for Hometown HOPE! We feel blessed to work with Hazel, who was as passionate about Hometown HOPE's mission and goals as we are. Her commitment to excellence was evident in every detail of her project. I've enjoyed sharing our programs that we are very passionate about with Hazel and watching her create a website that is detailed, bright, and easy to navigate. We are forever grateful that we can reach more clients who can benefit from our services."*

-Kristi Beyl, Director

Hometown  
HOPE (Helping  
Others Provide  
Enrichment)

# Hazel Schmidt

# Aspyn Kjos

Lakes and  
Prairies  
Community  
Action  
Partnership  
(CAPLP)

*"Aspyn was a great addition to the CAPLP team this summer! Aspyn's special project was to run the school supply and backpack distribution for kids in need of getting these items for when they return to school this fall.*

*She did a great job creating flyers, information, and registration forms for this, as well as helping fill food pantry orders, deliver frozen meals to senior citizens, and working at the front desk at the CAPLP office at the Clay County Family Service Center.*

*She was always willing to give a helping hand and did it with a smile and a positive attitude."*

-Stephanie Schenck,  
REACH Manager



Years in PaY: 2 | High School: Oak Grove '26

Aspyn Kjos is a graduate of Oak Grove and an incoming freshman at NDSU planning to study architecture and design. Her favorite activities are anything lake-related and outdoors. Aspyn loves meeting new people and forming new relationships.

Aspyn's special project was organizing a school supply distribution for CAPLP to help students and families throughout the Clay County community. She managed inventory, organized supplies, and created flyers to let community members know that these resources were available.

CAPLP's mission is to eliminate poverty by empowering families and engaging communities.

*"Working with my mentors this summer helped me grow both personally and professionally. One of the biggest things I learned at CAPLP is how many different programs can come together to support individuals and families in our community. Seeing that impact with my own eyes has inspired me to continue serving others with compassion."*

-Aspyn Kjos, PaY Intern

"Interning at Make-A-Wish North Dakota this summer has been an incredible experience. I have learned the importance of working for an organization whose mission you truly believe in. My mentor, Angie, has been incredibly supportive and encouraging throughout the summer, and I could not have asked for a better placement. I am so grateful for everything I have learned and experienced."

-Akiko Milligan, PaY Intern



Years in PaY: 3 | High School: Fargo North '26

Akiko Milligan is a graduate of Fargo North. She has been in PaY for 3 years; she was involved in student council, Eco Club, and was also president of Future Business Leaders of America. Next year she plans on attending NDSU, hoping to double major in accounting and finance.

Akiko's special project was to create an Intern Alumni Network. She reached out to past Make-A-Wish North Dakota interns to gather feedback on how they would like to stay connected to the mission and develop a communications plan to keep alumni engaged throughout the next year.

The mission of Make-A-Wish is to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

"Akiko brought tremendous energy to our team, she is full of life and added a fun and unexpected spark to the office. She approached her project with confidence, determination, and a positive attitude. Beyond her assigned responsibilities, she eagerly embraced opportunities to experience different parts of the wish journey, gaining firsthand insight into the impact of our mission on the children and families we serve. Her curiosity, engagement, and genuine passion for our work made her a valuable contributor and a joy to have on the team, and we are proud of what she has accomplished this summer."

-Angie Leier, Volunteer Director

Make-A-  
Wish North  
Dakota

Akiko Milligan



# Violet McConn

Otter Cove  
Children's  
Museum

Years in PaY: 1 | High School: Fergus Falls High School '27

Violet McConn is a rising senior at Fergus Falls High School and is interested in studying medicine after graduation. Violet loves spending time working in her family's orchard and is involved in ten extracurricular activities!

Violet's special project was to design components of a music-related exhibit. She designed, visualized, and created the display for the museum.

Otter Cove's mission is to support the optimal development of our region's children by providing abundant play opportunities in an enriching environment that launches imaginations, stimulates skill development, and fosters a growing sense of place and purpose.

*"Working alongside Violet this summer has been an absolute joy. Her creativity, initiative, and thoughtful approach helped shape our upcoming music-themed exhibit while giving her the opportunity to explore child development, family engagement, and the many ways children's museums serve their communities. We often joked that I wished I could clone her, and after seeing the care, enthusiasm, and talent she brought to every project, I truly meant it."*  
-Elizabeth Pihlaja, Executive Director



*"Interning at Otter Cove has provided so many meaningful opportunities for me. I've grown my professional communication skills and accountability, and developed a greater understanding of nonprofits. I've also made so many meaningful connections with the interns in my cohort as well as the Barry Fellow who has been so intentional about getting to know us. I'm so thankful for the privilege of interning this summer and I know the skills I've gained in the last nine weeks will continue to help me as I move forward!"*

-Violet McConn, PaY Intern

"This internship has taught me the importance of being grateful and not taking anything for granted. I have been honored to help provide experiences and opportunities to those less fortunate than myself, and through the support of Noreen, I've learned a lot about myself and gained valuable skills that I will take into the rest of my life. Thanks to Noreen, The Barry Foundation, and everyone who has made this experience possible."

-Lukas Robinson, PaY Intern



*"Resilience and determination are found not on perfect days but on days you pivot, and it is revealed when storms roll in. Lukas met every weather challenge from rainy days to hotter than you can imagine. He adapted, thought creatively, and worked hard, proving that resilience and determination can turn obstacles into opportunities. He made a pizza oven, taught fishing, arranged special guest teachers on welding, and kept it all going while learning. He is a treasure."*

-Noreen Thomas, Board Member

Years in PaY: 4 | High School: Fargo South '25  
College: University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Lukas Robinson is a graduate of Fargo South and a rising sophomore at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, studying political science. He was involved in speech and debate, wrestling, and music. When he's on campus, Lukas works at the Bell Museum of Natural History as an interpretive guide. Lukas intends to pursue a career in law after earning his undergraduate degree.

Lukas's special project was to design and lead summer programming for a group of homeless, indigenous teenagers. He taught the teens to fish, provided them opportunities to learn about the natural world through birding, and other outdoor activities.

Renewing the Countryside strengthens rural areas by championing and supporting rural communities, farmers, artists, entrepreneurs, educators, activists and other people who are renewing the countryside through sustainable and innovative initiatives, businesses, and projects.

Renewing the  
Countryside

# Lukas Robinson

# Ava Bergh

YMCA of the  
Northern Sky

*"It has been an honor to have a PaY intern at the YMCA of the Northern Sky this summer! Ava's positive energy and joy are contagious for our team and the organization. She's a self-starter and a go-getter for sure! I am so impressed with her 'go-to' attitude to research, document, and present the findings of our Y's history in Fargo, Fergus Falls, YMCA Camp Cormorant and our Foundation. With all that she's learned, we've also learned so much as well! And those nuggets and jewels of history will help equip our organization well into the future! Thank you Ava!"*

*-Karen Mathison,  
VP of Financial Development*

Years in PaY: 4 | High School: Kindred High School '26

Ava Bergh is a graduate of Kindred High School and plans to continue her education at South Dakota State University. She will pursue a degree in exercise science with a minor in sports and recreation management. Ava is interested in building a career that promotes health, wellness, and leadership within her community. She is especially excited to gain real-world experience and develop skills through opportunities like the PaY Summer Internship. In her free time, Ava enjoys going to the lake, hiking, attending Bible study with friends, shopping, and playing sports.

Ava was a "history detective" for the Y, researching historical records, organizing archived materials, and uncovering stories that reflect the Y's lasting impact on our community.

The YMCA's mission is to strengthen the community by helping people of all backgrounds learn, grow, and thrive.



*"My time with the YMCA this summer has been an incredibly meaningful experience. I've learned so much from everyone at the Y, whose passion for serving others shines through in everything they do. This internship has strengthened my appreciation for storytelling, history, and the power of meaningful connections. I'm so grateful to have played a small part in preserving the Y's legacy while growing both personally and professionally."*

*-Ava Bergh, PaY Intern*

"Getting to intern at the YWCA has been an incredible experience for me this summer. Learning how to communicate and collaborate effectively with my mentor, participants, and housing advocates helped me make my special project as engaging and beneficial as possible. Listening to others and empathizing with everyone around me were key to having a successful internship, while also helping me create a project that sets others up for success as they transition into stable housing."

-Lydia Roehl, PaY Intern



Years in PaY: 4 | High School: West Fargo High School '26

Lydia Roehl is a graduate of West Fargo High School. While attending high school, she participated in DECA, National Honor Society, French Club, and PaY. Out of the classroom, Lydia enjoys reading, drawing, going to the movies, listening to music, and hanging out with friends and family. Next year, Lydia plans to attend college, majoring in marketing and minoring in art history.

The Life After Move-In curriculum is designed to support participants after they transition into permanent housing. It covers topics such as: understanding your lease, budgeting for stability, cleaning and home care, and community resources and support.

YWCA Cass Clay is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

*"This summer was a rewarding learning experience for both Lydia and me. By collaborating on the Life After Move-In curriculum, we were able to combine ideas, research, and real-world experience to create a resource that supports participants beyond the move-in process. The project reinforced the importance of preparation, connection, and ongoing support in helping individuals and families thrive in stable housing."*

-Morgan Nordheim,  
Supportive Housing Manager

YWCA Cass  
Clay

Lydia Roehl



# PaY Internship Highlights



Our summer began with Internship Kickoff and Orientation, where mentors and interns met and prepared for the summer ahead.





Farm in the Dell Site Visit



Great Plains Food Bank Site Visit



HIA Health Site Visit







Leadership Day at Camp Castaway was filled with connection and learning.





Peer Mentorship Socials



Trollwood Social





Interns became engaged in the local community through TEDxFargo & StartupBREW



# 2009-2025 Summer Internship Participants

Thank you to all of our past interns and host organizations who have shared their time and passion to make this program a success over the past 15 years. For all who have invested their energy, attention and thoughtfulness: thank you for your inspiring work!

## 2009

Kelsey Barstad, YWCA Cass Clay  
Naomi Beauclair, ND Heart Gallery  
Emma Brandt, Great Plains Food Bank  
Luke Brodeur, Churches United for the Homeless  
Timothy Lillehaugen, Plains Art Museum  
Angie Sherman, United Way of Cass-Clay

## 2010

Bria Dimke, Rape & Abuse Crisis Center  
Christena Goedtke, United Way of Cass-Clay  
Carly Kinzler, Dakota Medical Foundation/Impact Foundation  
Dan Larson, Churches United for the Homeless  
Austin Marts, Homewood Animal Shelter  
Nate Mattson, Sanford Health Foundation  
Angie Sherman, Fraser, Ltd.

## 2011

Hope Erickson, Fraser, Ltd.  
Anthony Hedrington, HERO  
Celeste Koppe, Young Life Castaway Club  
Alexandra Miller, Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity  
Alexandra Mohror, Red River Zoo  
Laura Roach, Cass County Community Theatre  
Seiko Shastri, CHARISM  
Jennifer Storm, Dorothy Day

## 2012

Andrew Carlson, SENDCAA  
Melissa Halvorson, Red River Zoo  
Steven Labine, YoungLife Castaway  
Zach Lipp, Venture Youth Alliance  
Jessica Nellerhoe, YWCA Cass Clay  
Erin Olson, FirstLink  
Josie Perhus, Ronald McDonald House  
Kayla Weston, CCRl

## 2013

Lexy Backer, Dress for Success (REACH)  
Kiana Dahlen, American Red Cross  
Raelle Dunn, Fargo Theatre  
Kristina Haggedal, United Way of Cass-Clay  
Katie Holleman, FM Opera  
Hayley Holte, YWCA Cass Clay  
Anjali Lall, The Arts Partnership  
Goeun Park, YoungLife Castaway  
Josie Perhus, Dakota Medical Foundation/Impact Foundation  
Grant Tosterud, River Keepers

## 2014

Bobbi Braaten, YWCA Cass Clay  
Sean Carpenter, The Arts Partnership  
McKenzy Diehl, Red River Zoo  
Taylor Hanson, Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes  
Ikran Hussein, Dress for Success (REACH)  
Sydney Jacobson, Plains Art Museum  
Abby Jirik, Detroit Lakes Community & Cultural Center  
Sulamita Pribyshchuk, YoungLife Castaway  
Akira Shastri, Outdoor Adventure Foundation  
Anna Volk, American Red Cross

## 2015

Bailey Aanenson, River Keepers  
Bobbi Braaten, Dakota Medical Foundation/Impact Foundation  
Keely Cain, YoungLife Castaway  
Ty Casey, Detroit Mountain

Tristan Hart, YWCA Cass Clay  
Abbie Haug, YMCA of Cass & Clay Counties  
Allie Laber, TNT Fitness  
Estefancy Martinez, Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes  
Kelly Meyer, Detroit Lakes Community & Cultural Center  
Akira Shastri, Churches United for the Homeless  
Skyler Stoner, American Red Cross  
Linnea Wagner, CHARISM  
Izzy Waite, SENDCAA  
Grant Zastoupil, The Gifted Learning Project

## 2016

Libby Bahr, The Arts Partnership  
Jaime Cain, River Keepers  
Kasey Ferguson, Essentia Health Regional Foundation  
Lauren Graftaas, Dress for Success (REACH)  
Ethan Ishaug, YoungLife Castaway  
Morgan Kastner, Boys and Girls Club of Detroit Lakes  
Katy Lemar, CHARISM  
Beca Livermont, Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County  
Megan MacFarlane, YMCA of Cass & Clay Counties  
Hannah Papenfuss, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota  
Hailey Sonstegard, Detroit Mountain  
Jacob Strinden, FM Area Foundation  
Gwen Toay, American Red Cross  
Lauren Wagner, Ronald McDonald House Charities  
Lauren Wander, FM Opera  
Avery Zasada, The Gifted Learning Project

## 2017

Aeyana Buchanan, River Keepers  
Chloe Drummond, Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County  
Sophia Hagen, Minnesota Flyers Gymnastics  
Jacob Hanson, YoungLife Castaway  
Gurturan Johal, YWCA Cass Clay  
Christian Larson, HERO  
Katie LeGare, Dress for Success (REACH)  
Grace Moser, Emergency Food Pantry  
Grace Noack, FM Community Theatre  
Joshua Olson, Great Plains Food Bank  
Carter Ridl, The Arts Partnership  
Jacob Schweitzer, CCRl  
Jerry Sherven, Plains Art Museum  
Quincy Sime, CHARISM  
Nicholas Snell, American Red Cross  
Lauren Wagner, FirstLink  
Linka Wintersteen, FM Opera

## 2018

Erin Cain, YWCA Cass Clay  
Ross Dent, The Gifted Learning Project  
Parker Erickson, The REFUGE-Compassion House  
Mirella Grimm, Minnesota Flyers Gymnastics  
Sophia Hagen, Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes  
Tess Haugrud, The Arts Partnership  
Sarah Jensen, FirstLink  
Do Yeon Kim, The Marshmallow Foundation  
Kaitlyn Kluck, Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County  
Mackenzie Korbel, New American Consortium  
Sydney Lunde, Detroit Mountain  
Brianna Martin, Jeremiah Program  
Elise Martinson, Essential Health Regional Foundation  
Avyan Mejdeen, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota  
Ian Pytlik, YMCA of Cass & Clay Counties  
Abbie Sherva, River Keepers

Kianna Snell, Plains Arts Museum  
Haidyn Stahl, Rebuilding Together Fargo- Moorhead Area Inc.

## 2019

Kayla Adamek, Plains Art Museum  
Claire Bailly, The Gifted Learning Project  
Grace Beauchamp, YMCA of Cass & Clay Counties  
Samuel Carlson, Rebuilding Together  
Ellia Dalzell, The Arts Partnership  
Ross Dent, Ronald McDonald House  
Molly Hauf, YWCA Cass Clay  
Whitney Isaacson, Historic Holmes Theatre – DLCCC  
Sarah Jensen, New American Consortium  
Elena Linster, Lake Agassiz: Habitat for Humanity  
Abbie Marschke, YoungLife Castaway  
Josie Mohror, American Red Cross  
Teegan Nordstrom, REACH  
Alena Pringle, Farm in the Dell  
Brooke Rossow, CHARISM

## 2023

Lindsey Rotz, Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes  
Abby Richman, CCRl  
Laila Kantarevic, FirstLink  
Adeline Raum, Great Plains Food Bank  
Mia Aarestad, HERO  
Jonas Wilson, Jeremiah Program  
Elizabeth Marzahl, Minnesota Flyers & Gymnastics  
Jess Schonhoff, River Keepers  
Azahna Luschen, Ronald McDonald House Charities  
Laura Krabbenhoft, Ronald McDonald House Charities  
Jagger Wraalstad, REACH  
Steven Sellin, YoungLife Castaway  
Gabrielle McGarvey, YWCA Cass Clay

## 2024

Sophie Irion, CCRl  
Jana Russiff, FirstLink  
Janelle Kalvoda, Folkways & Red River Market  
Aletta Olson, Harvest Hope Farm  
Aneesh Vegi, Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity  
Ava Sticka-Jacobs, Plains Art Museum  
Lauren Christianson, Red River Children's Advocacy Center (RRCAC)  
Helena Daggett, Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters  
Della Phillips, Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation (TRPLF)  
Kimberly Hoffman, YMCA of the the Northern Sky  
Jordan McLagan, YWCA

## 2025

Carissa Asheim, Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch  
Annika Hanson, Detroit Mountain Recreation Area  
Alyssa Fowler, Fargo Moorhead Science Museum  
Vivian Tinjum, Folkways  
Addie Bogenreif, Fraser, Ltd.  
Hannah Pilon, Great Plains Food Bank  
Annika Johnson, Habitat for Humanity  
Sonja Rutten, Harvest Hope Farm  
Anna Jablon, HERO  
Lauren Holstad, HIA Health  
Ava Guleson, Jeremiah Program  
Elsa Stigen, MN Flyers Gymnastics and Fitness  
Grayson Mitchell, ND 4-H Foundation  
Matthew Pearson, Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters  
Greta Raum, YMCA of the the Northern Sky, Fargo  
Evie Millard, YMCA of the the Northern Sky, Fergus Falls



# Passion

[inspireleadshare.org](http://inspireleadshare.org)