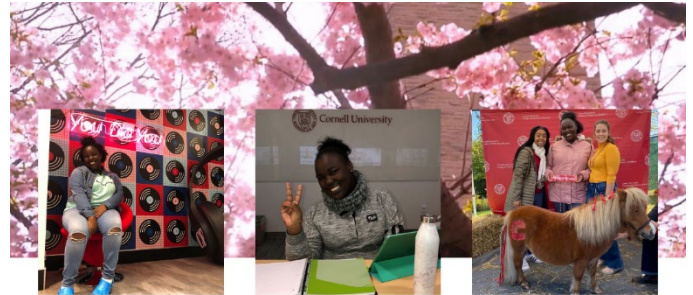




CORNELL COMMUNITY WORKSTUDY PROGRAM

SaMari Hall
Cornell University, College of Arts & Sciences
Major: Sociology
Class of 2022

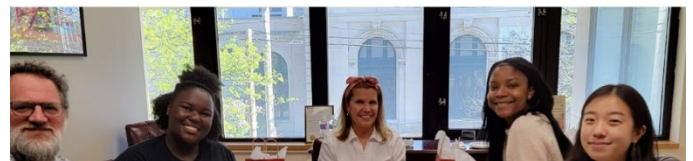


The Community Foundation was an amazing discovery for me. I am from Buffalo, NY and I made assumptions about Ithaca, based on Buffalo. I didn't think Ithaca was as involved in their community financially. I was definitely wrong, and learned that there are hundreds of people who donate to amazing causes. I enjoyed being on the inside of a program like this because I am usually on the other end, as I am a student who has been supported by donors to make progress in my education. It felt amazing to be a part of the group who could give, instead of receiving the funds. In a way, **I felt like I was giving back and paying it forward.** I know how much the generosity of others have helped me to accomplish many things, and I can only imagine how these programs and recipients feel, and the gratitude they feel.

COMMUNITY

I became more than just a student at Cornell University,
I became a powerful agent in the well-being of Ithaca.
SaMari Hall, Cornell Community Workstudy Program

www.cftompkins.org



This opportunity was a blessing and it corresponds to what I want to do in a way. I will be continuing my education at University of Buffalo to get my MPH in Epidemiology. My passion stems from the disparities in the community, many which can be mitigated, or at least lessened with the availability of funds. For example, obesity is a pressing issue due to lack of health literacy as well as the lack of funds which is necessary to buy healthy, nutritious foods as opposed to cheap, quick fixes like potato chips. In the Epidemiology realm, I will do research on these issues related to chronic diseases and make policies that will fix the issue. All in all, that's what Community Foundation of Tompkins County does. **They, as well as my future self, are passionate about our communities and we can turn crisis into opportunity to save and/or help people.**

This is such a great organization, and I am so happy to have found it and worked side by side with it. I felt like a crucial component of major decisions that really made a powerful impact in the Ithaca community. This made me feel amazing **as I became more than just a student at Cornell University, but I became a powerful agent in the well-being of Ithaca and its' citizens.** I can't wait to be a part of a group of donors like this in the future when I am in my career. I love to give to my community, as much as I can. **It was a privilege and an honor, and I would do it a thousand times over.**



CORNELL COMMUNITY WORKSTUDY PROGRAM

Carlene Mwaura
Cornell University, New York State School of
Industrial and Labor Relations
Major: Industrial and Labor Relations
Class of 2024

Sharing an excerpt from **“A Day in the Life”** social media segment following a student work-study student through some classes and interactions on campus and also as a staff member of the Community Foundation.

As a Community Impact Associate at the Community Foundation I have learned so much. **One thing I know of for sure is that anyone can be a philanthropist, and everyone has a platform to give and help their community.** I used to have a very 1940's view of a philanthropist, thinking of those such as the Rockefellers or Carnegies or institutions such as Cornell, as the extremely wealthy donors were the only ones giving and being the fuel for communities to sustain themselves. But I learned that a lot of work that is done by communities is done by those who live in them.

Through the 2021 Fall Grant Cycle, I read through a lot of grant applications. I helped facilitate the conversations. Review teams thought about where should community money go to and how to share community needs. **I have learned so much and see how many are involved in making a community a better place.**

At the Community Foundation, they really foster a sense of community. I feel so comfortable. **I feel like I am really cared for who I am.** I really feel valued as a person. These are just some of my experiences as a student and at the foundation.

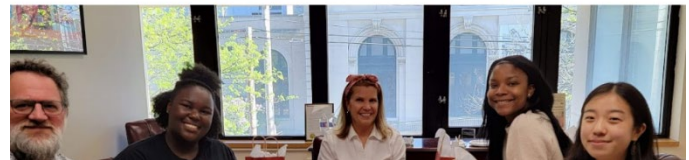


COMMUNITY

I have learned so much. One thing I know of for sure, is that anyone can be a philanthropist, everyone has a platform to give and help their community.

Carlene Mwaura, Cornell Community Workstudy Program

www.cftompkins.org





CORNELL COMMUNITY WORKSTUDY PROGRAM

Nabila Okudo
Cornell University, New York State College of
Agriculture and Life Sciences
Major: Communications
Minor: History of Capitalism
Class of 2022



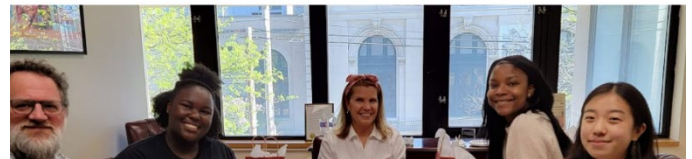
During the last two years, I have had the privilege of working closely with Community Foundation staff members in order to improve the social media strategy and engagement. **I have learned a lot about local organizations in the Tompkins County community** and how the Foundation works with them to ensure community growth. This job introduced me to the inner workings of a community-based philanthropy organization.

COMMUNITY

Social issues will always be at the forefront of my work, and the Community Foundation solidified this value.

Nabila Okudo, Cornell Community Workstudy Program

www.cftompkins.org



Through weekly meetings, I engaged with the community and was able to spread awareness about the Women's Fund, Social Justice, and other events. By managing access to Instagram, Twitter, and Constant Contact, for example, I learned how hashtags can engage specific groups and how data analytics help with marketing planning.

I was able to connect deeply with Nancy Massicci and other members of the staff. From interviewing me to delegating me to lead other Communication Associates, **working under Nancy was great for my growth.** Under Amy LeViere, I was able to further the social media analytics and creative skills I learned. The lesson of personalizing stories will follow me in my career, as I'll continuously persuade others through communication.

Upon graduation, I will move to NYC to work as a Merchandise Buyer for Macy's Inc. - I love fashion and working with people, so I'm incredibly excited to delve into the retail world. **Social issues will always be at the forefront of my work, and the Community Foundation solidified this value.**



CORNELL COMMUNITY WORKSTUDY PROGRAM

Janis Song
Cornell University, College of Engineering
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Class of 2022



As a college student, I have worked many different jobs on campus since freshman year. From administrative work for Student Campus Life at Cornell, to a calling job for e-Cornell, I've experienced a lot of different work environments and interacted with a diverse group of people throughout the years. However, it wasn't until I joined the Community Foundation of Tompkins County that **I was able to see how much of an impact I could make in my own community through the job I worked.**

COMMUNITY

This has been one of the best experiences I have had as a college student. It has opened up my eyes.

Janis Song, Cornell Community Workstudy Program

www.cftompkins.org



When I first started as a Community Impact Associate and started learning all the new programs to draft grants, **I wasn't aware of how important that singular procedure would be in bringing the Tompkins community together.** As I attended more meetings and heard people speak up about how certain grants had changed their lives, I started seeing the connections in each word I was typing to the impact it was creating. It was amazing how a single document could contain the future of an organization; meeting its needs and bringing people together. I recall getting an email forwarded from Janet on how the grant given to the local Food Bank enabled them to increase their pantry and continually take steps to decrease food insecurity in Tompkins County. Through grant cycles, I was able to read reports on how grants were able to help organizations create after school programs for children with parents who had to work long hours just to provide for their families, and others that helped members of the community who were in a mentally dark place, and still others that created artistic programs that helped children feel included and embraced.

Being a Community Impact Associate **has been one of the best experiences I have had as a college student.** It has opened up my eyes in seeing that it is possible to find work that I enjoy, work with people who consistently care for me and want me to succeed, and make an impact in people's lives all at the same time.