



# We Are Called

## The Campaign for Yale Divinity School

### Social Justice Internships

At YDS, students are eager to meet humanity’s challenges head-on. Whether working toward racial justice, immigrant care, improved mental health outcomes, educational opportunities, or housing solutions for all, the next generation of leaders embraces the daunting future.

For students exploring service through nonprofit organizations, our **Social Justice Internship Program** provides crucial training and the financial support of a stipend. The summer or semester internship experience—where theological reflection and the practices of work intersect—is one of the most direct ways we prepare students to positively change the world.

Our internship program is led by Alison Cunningham ’84 M.Div., the Director of Professional Formation. Before returning to Yale, Alison was CEO of Columbus House in New Haven and was recognized as one of the foremost advocates for people experiencing homelessness in Connecticut. As part of the Office of Vocation and Leadership, she is the primary contact for students interested in internships set in the nonprofit world.

YDS internships contain three essential components: site-associated practice, a practicum with peer reflection, and a qualified supervisor



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“The YDS Internship program provides the opportunity for students to explore their vocational direction by working on social justice issues in a non-profit setting. Many students emerge from their internships with greater clarity and a sense of calling to work toward justice in this way. Others who are called to parish ministry find that an internship focused on social justice expands how they see the role of the church in the world. Through the social justice internship program, YDS is equipping its students to minister to the needs of a suffering world.”

- Alison Cunningham ’84 M.Div., Director of Professional Formation

and mentor. Whether working with Alison from a list of social justice organizations where students have previously interned or by finding a new site to better meet their goals, students pursue opportunities that fulfill their needs for learning and vocational direction.



**Gabe LePage, M.Div. '23 with Stillmeadow PeacePark**

In turn, YDS students provide New Haven's vital nonprofits with creative energy, knowledge, and passion. Here at home and beyond, interns serve in case management roles, as points of entry for new clients, as leaders of group work, as development and communications associates, and much more. Some transition into career roles with the same nonprofits after graduation. All experience real-world issues and challenges that will help them discern their future paths and strengthen them in their work.

To allow our students to pursue their chosen internships without financial worry or distractions from part-time employment, we are fundraising to establish additional internship opportunities, each funded at \$100,000, to support the Social Justice Internship Program. By ensuring that our students have the resources they need to commit fully to study and service, we support them to set their paths based on calling, not financial constraints.



"Through the resources and support of YDS, I was able to connect with Squash Haven, a local educational nonprofit that empowers students to achieve both academic and athletic success. Through this program, I've discovered a love for teaching and for educational justice that I know will considerably shape my future vocation after YDS!"

- Seth Greer '22 M.A.R., now a teacher and mentor on Norway's Sørlandet, an international boarding school on a tall ship sailing the world

Recent Internship Sites Include:

*Downtown Evening* SOUP KITCHEN



**iris**  
INTEGRATED REFUGEE  
& IMMIGRANT SERVICES



**apt | foundation**  
TREATMENT, RESEARCH & RECOVERY



The Community Foundation  
for Greater New Haven

*The Storehouse Project*  
Serving our community.



"My bi-vocational internship at Harmony Community Church and Lawndale Christian Health Center in Chicago was transformative. I was able to experience firsthand how faith can practically impact and meet the needs of individuals in historically neglected communities, and I am forever grateful."

- *Nia Campinha-Bacote '21  
M.Div., now a community  
outreach specialist*

### To Learn More

*For Humanity* is Yale's most ambitious fundraising campaign yet, guided by a mission to improve the world for future generations.

For more information about how you can support Social Justice Internships at Yale Divinity School, please contact:

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