



Family Advocate Intern

What We Do

Fortress is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving Fort Worth's Historic Southside neighborhood. Our mission, building bridges from poverty to promise, takes a dual-generational approach to equip our students and their families with the resources they need to attain long-term stability, health and happiness. Through programs focused on academic, social-emotional and spiritual support, our strategy is to help children and parents utilize their existing strengths and develop new skills to overcome barriers born from systemic inequities, generational trauma, and life circumstances.

What You'll Do

As a Family Advocate Intern, you are an integral part of our program team, supporting the efforts of the Parent Program Coordinator and Family Resource Coordinator. As part of the program team, you will work directly with our enrolled parents and families, participating in parenting classes, family events, and conferences, and will also be a part of our community collaboration efforts.

You might do any of the following on an average day:

- Participate in or co-lead a class that promotes positive parenting or personal empowerment.
- Conduct and analyze assessments and surveys from parents and students to determine how to prioritize community and family needs.
- Prepare activities and prizes for family or community events, which are hosted 2-3 times per semester.
- Assist with the upkeep of our community pantry, processing and stocking donations of fresh produce, shelf-stable items, children's clothing, and hygiene products.
- Attend community stakeholder meetings and events to identify available services and resources for our families.

You will work on an Internship Capstone project designed to enhance your professional skills and boost your resume. Under the direction of our Community Relations & Volunteer Coordinator and a member of our parent program team, you will select an appropriate project that aligns with your unique career or academic interests and goals and which also promotes the mission of Fortress.

How You'll Grow

The Family Advocate Internship is designed for college students with little or no prior professional experience. All that's required is a heart for our mission, a longing for leadership opportunities, openness to feedback, a desire to grow in faith, and an interest in digging deeply into issues of racial and social equity.

To help you make the most of your internship, Fortress provides training throughout the program on topics related to your assigned work. You'll also be paired with a mentor – either a Fortress staff member or a community volunteer – who will advise you throughout your Internship Capstone Project.

During your internship, you will acquire and refine marketable workplace skills such as project planning, nonprofit leadership, public speaking, volunteer management, and case management, along with the skills specific to your Internship Capstone Project.

What You'll Bring

Our Family Advocate Internship is designed for students who are currently enrolled in college and have completed at least one year of school. Family Advocate Interns are commonly pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in areas like Social Work, Psychology, Family Studies, Nonprofit Leadership, and the liberal arts. A Master's-level track is available, and Fortress will work with the student and their school to arrange licensed supervision and/or additional work hours if needed.

Family Advocate Interns are expected to be available for 8-10 hours per week for the duration of the fall and/or spring semester (early September to early December and/or mid-January to late April).

Successful interns possess a love for Jesus and a desire to share his love with vulnerable communities. They are grace-filled and eager to learn and grow in ministry and in their pursuit of justice. They are also energetic and enthusiastic about potential careers in education, nonprofits, ministry, or other related fields.

What We Offer

Fortress is committed to providing a high-quality internship experience by offering:

- Faith-filled fellowship and mentorship by Christian leaders.
- A pay rate of \$10/hour, for up to 10 hours per week (up to 20 hours available for graduate students when required by their school for credit).
- Flexible work hours on-site and under the direction of our program team.
- Options to individualize the internship experience to meet degree requirements for college credit.
- A work environment that encourages honest feedback (even when it's tough), seeks progress toward racial and social equity, and upholds values aligned with the teachings of Jesus.

Don't just take our word for it! Here's what our former interns are saying:

"Interning at Fortress was one of the best opportunities I've ever been afforded. I believe Fortress offered me the unique opportunity to learn and develop skills in multiple areas that could assist me in my future career, rather than a single area that other internships may offer. Whether you are interested in growing your faith, working with children, or learning the administrative side of nonprofit work, Fortress ensures that you gain valuable hands-on experience." - *Hailey H., senior Political Science student at Texas A&M Commerce*

"Having the opportunity to work with the kiddos at Fortress has been so important to my growth as an educator, both professionally and personally. Interning at Fortress confirmed for me that I was on the right path and that I could do a great deal of good as an educator." - *Aidan K., senior Music Education student at St. Olaf College*

"Fortress taught me how to love children in the way Jesus does, gave me tons of skills that I am able to bring to my future careers, and gave me tons of friendships along the way." - *Rachel S., senior Nursing student at Texas Christian University*

"I loved my internship experience – it was completely tailored to my career interests! Learning about the community Fortress serves was amazing and I loved interacting with the volunteer groups and Fortress kids!" - *Cassidy C., Child Life graduate student at Texas Woman's University*

What Comes Next

You can find more information about our organization, our core values, faith statement, our commitment to equitable hiring practices, and the full application at www.fortressfw.org/hiring/interns/school-year.