

Meet Acadia Vance

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING YOUTH SERVICE CORPS INTERN



The Christian Science Nursing Youth Service Corps (CSNYSC) is a program designed for participants to experience all of the different aspects of a Christian Science nursing facility. Individuals can choose a one- or two-semester internship program, during which they learn and work in the Christian Science nursing, hospitality, and administration departments at an approved facility. In September, Acadia Vance enrolled in a two-semester internship at Peace Haven. Her experience began with an online orientation that included three CSNYSC participants completing internships at other Christian Science facilities nationwide. Since then, she has had a hands-on experience at Peace Haven while attending college full-time. We recently caught up with Acadia and chatted about her experience thus far.

What inspired you to apply to the CSNYSC Program? My mom has been a Christian Science nurse for many years and she encouraged me to apply. I thought it would be a great opportunity to be more involved with Christian Science and be a great opportunity for growth. **What are you enjoying most so far?** I don't see myself as very social but I've most enjoyed working with both patients and staff. **What are you studying in college?** I'm mostly taking basics right now but I'm very interested in studying English and possibly becoming an author or journalist. **What is most meaningful to you about Christian Science?** Seeing the good in everything, in every situation or person I interact with. It's wonderful knowing that they are God's children and always expressing good. **What activities do you enjoy outside of work?** Taking walks, spending time outside, reading, painting, and drawing. I recently read *Life at 400 Beacon Street* by Heather Vogel Frederick, and I really liked it! **What are you most proud of?** My resilience, always bouncing back from challenges. Christian Science has been an invaluable tool to help with this. **What have you learned so far?** I value the lessons on patience, with others and myself. This has unfolded great growth for me. **What do you find especially beautiful?** I love nature in general, mountains, trees, animals. I love the sound of birds chirping and the rustling of leaves. **We heard you recently had a sweet experience with a bird at Peace Haven. Would you be willing to share it?** Sure! In October, I started questioning whether this program was a right fit for me. One day while working, a little bird flew into the enclosed porch on one of the patient wings. The bird landed on the table inside the enclosed area. I gently picked him up and took him outside. The bird continued to perch on my hand for about 15 minutes. He seemed very content and didn't want to leave, he even allowed me to pet him and it was a calming experience for both me and the little bird. This experience was a unique, answered prayer for me. At that moment, I realized I was on my right path.

Director of Christian Science Nursing Cathy Farrell shares, "Acadia has a sweet, gentle presence as she goes around ministering to the Christian Science nurses and patients. She lovingly supports wherever needed!"