

Madison's Reflection Memo

During my time at FLS I learned a lot. Agencies put a lot of time and effort into helping people who do not know where to go and it is incredible to see that hard work pay off. The staff at FLS is so helpful and fun. They were very willing to help me if I did not understand something and I was quite comfortable reaching out for advice. My internship included a lot of research, writing memos, and outreach.

Outreach was my favorite part of this internship. The office work was nice, but outreach is where I felt like I was truly helping people. Speaking to workers and explaining that there are people who want to help them is a very rewarding experience. Most workers seemed very thankful that we were there and were willing to speak with us. On my first outreach experience I met a woman, her husband, and their four month old daughter. The child was born in Kentucky, but because the parents had no transportation they had to catch a ride with another family to Michigan shortly after the birth. Since they left so quickly the parents never received a social security number for the child. I was able to call the hospital as well as social security to figure out how the parents could get a social security card for their daughter. The mother was so appreciative that I followed through with the information. It felt great to be able to help someone even a little and to actually accomplish something. Outreach made me realize how much these workers go through and all that they sacrifice in order to work and support their families. It is one thing to hear about immigrants on the news, but it is a completely different world than what is portrayed on television.

Working for FLS was such an incredible learning experience. I was able to see how all types of agencies come together to help a specific group of people. The legal services, medical offices, education programs, and public benefit programs all communicated and worked together to help migrant farmworkers. It was really wonderful to see so many people put the interest of farmworkers first. Everything that was done by the agencies was for the benefit of migrant farmworkers and I'm very thankful that I was able to be a part of it.