

Voices of Future Leaders...

IWJ Summer Internship Graduates

Reflect on their Experiences

"We won!!!!!! The cleaning companies settled. I can't believe it. We were all ready to strike, but now we don't have to...We got the janitors health-care and better wages...I'm learning so much."

Arnie Raj
Illiff School of Theology
 Seminary Summer

"How amazing...to be in a small church in Brooklyn meeting a man of a totally different faith, story...and to unify on this issue (Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride). People go through such struggles just to live on this earth. I feel proud of all of us for putting our feet to action on the words that we pray."

Lauren Thomas
The Jewish Theological Seminary
 Seminary Summer

"As a Muslim, I was raised to respect everyone...and I feel so fortunate to have practiced this religious value and seen it practiced by others."

Gulsum Gurbuz
Islamic Studies Program, Hartford Seminary
 Seminary Summer

"The seminary summer internship immersed me into a ministry that allowed me to assist in the empowerment of others, see social transformation take place between workers and employers and bear witness to the struggles of workers across our country. This experience opened the doors to my current call to faith based community organizing..."

Eva Creydt Schulte
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
 Seminary Summer

"Seminary Summer introduced me to a new world. I saw first hand the actions unions were taking to care for the disenfranchised, like members of the painters union finding good jobs and legal assistance for people who had been smuggled into Massachusetts as slave labor. These are the problems the Bible tells me I should try to solve, and unions are working on them."

Kate Holbrook
Harvard Divinity School
 Seminary Summer

"I feel that I have grown in my ability to share in understanding and compassion, in my ability to think critically both about economic situations and in my ability to engage in direct action in the attempt of making systemic change."

Cecilia Reeder
University of Dayton
 Catholic Social Teaching Program

"This internship...gave me the opportunity to come to a better understanding of my responsibilities in the world as a Catholic."

Catholic Social Teaching proclaims that we must reach out to the most vulnerable in society. This outreach will form the basis of a moral society. ...Opportunities to fulfill this are available all over. I was given the confidence this summer to realize my own capabilities in terms of this duty."

Maureen Sullivan
Georgetown University
 Catholic Social Teaching Program

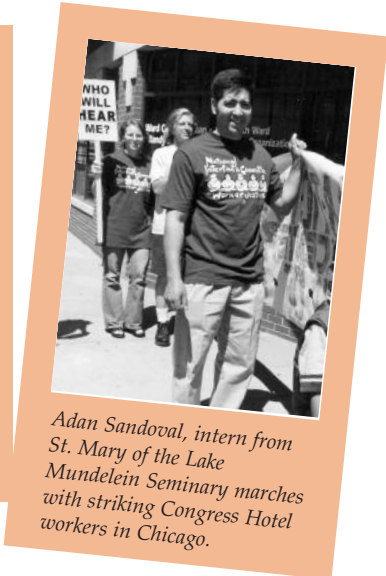
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Former IWJ intern from Garrett Theological Seminary, Rev. Rebekah Jordan now directs the Mid-South Interfaith Network for Economic Justice in Memphis, Tennessee.



IWJ student interns stand in solidarity with striking workers.



Adan Sandoval, intern from St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary marches with striking Congress Hotel workers in Chicago.