Childhood Summer Institute 2020
Scholars

Location: Minneapolis, MN
Grade (rising into): 12th Grade

Their Summer Institute experience...

- Relative to your prior knowledge about CSEA, how much has your understanding changed after participating in Summer Institute?
  I knew about CSEA, but I didn’t know about the individual, organization and companies that were working towards the issue. I didn’t know Facebook, Microsoft and Verizon had policies towards this issue.

- How did you feel about the virtual learning environment?
  It felt safe, open, non-judgmental and welcoming.

- What did you find the most interesting topic from Summer Institute?
  The most interesting topic that I learned was PhotoDNA. I found it interesting topic because forensic investigators are able to use it to help identify similar images to help put predators behind bars.

- How do you plan to use the acquired knowledge and skills?
  I plan to use my acquired knowledge to spread awareness about the topic to my friends and peers. I’m also planning to break the stigma around childhood exploitation because I believe choosing to neglect a topic does more harm than not talking about the problem at all.
Location: Scarsdale, New York  
Grade (rising into): 12th Grade

Their Summer Institute experience...

- How would you rate this program overall?  
  This has been a once in a lifetime experience, I am amazed at how many guest speakers we were able to hear and converse with, the discussions we as a group had, and the final projects people have created.

- What is the most important information or resource you got from Summer Institute?  
  The most important information I got from the Summer Institute was the countless people from different companies working on solving the issue of CSEA little by little and understanding the major difficulties of doing so. A resource that I will keep for a long time is my connection with Childhood through this program.

- Who was your favorite Special Guest? Why?  
  My favorite special guest was Christopher Rahm who is a psychiatrist and has worked with pedophilia patients in clinical trials to solve their disorder. I found his information fascinating and very compelling to act on solving the issue of CSEA as well.

Location: Georgetown, Guyana  
Grade (rising into): First year student (freshman)

Their Summer Institute experience...

- How would you rate this program overall?  
  Entering this program I was so nervous but I (jumped) aboard the train and I do not regret it. In these last weeks I have gained so much knowledge about Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. I have also made new friends. I got a chance to speak to many organizations which I would only hear about online which was so much fun. It saddens me that the program is ending Friday and I cannot join next year because I will be too old to participate but I am so grateful that I got to do this this year. This has been a opportunity that I will never forget.
Who was your favorite Special Guest? Why?
My favourite special guest would have to be Mr. Glen Pounder. He is the Chief Operating Officer for Child Rescue Coalition, a nonprofit organization which helps rescue children from sexual abuse by providing technology to law enforcement (free of charge) to track, arrest and prosecute child predators. He also spoke about a website called Thinkuknow.co.uk that really helped me learn more about Child Sexual Abuse and on- and offline safety.

Location: Pelham, NY
Grade (rising into): 12th Grade

Their Summer Institute experience...

What is the most important information or resource you got from Summer Institute?
Understanding CSA from different perspectives and understanding the scale of how it affects people’s lives

What did you find the most interesting topic from Summer Institute?
Learning about the technology solutions to online CSA and mental health characteristics of perpetrators.

Who was your favorite Special Guest? Why?
My favorite special guest was Dr. Diaz or Dr. Rahm because they are very informative about their fields and I found their stories and work to be very inspiring.

How do you plan to use the acquired knowledge and skills?
I plan on educating those close to me and speaking up on these issues and supporting those that come forward.
Shanae H.

Location: Queens, NY
Grade (rising into): College Junior

Their Summer Institute experience...

- How would you rate this program overall?
The program did an excellent job of teaching the scholars about CSEA. We weren't just presented with stats, we were presented with vital information on the topic, had the opportunity to learn about advocating and campaigning for the topic. We were taught about SDG's and even had the opportunity to network with very important people. Also, the moderators of the program did an excellent job of working at the pace of the scholars and educating us in a way that was beneficial to us- which I appreciated a lot.

- How did you feel about the virtual learning environment?
The virtual learning environment was better than I expected. I did not expect us to be as engaging as we were. I thought the scholars would've been lectured to but being able to share our points and wanting to hear our thoughts made the environment so inclusive and I loved that!

- What did you find the most interesting topic from Summer Institute?
I think my favorite topic from the summer institute was everything related to technology. We live in a technological world and it was so cool learning that technology isn't just being recreationally or negatively, but it's being used to change the world for good! We heard of platforms and programs that detect can help find missing children that are victims of CSEA, platforms that detect systems that are littered with secure child abuse and other such content. Technology can be painted very negatively so it was nice for it to be portrayed as a superhero.

- How do you plan to use the acquired knowledge and skills?
From now on, I aim to educate others about this topic. I'll definitely be doing more research and looking for ways in which I can insert myself into a position where I can be helpful. I have always loved working with children and I think from what I've learned, I'll be able to be a better listener and helper to any child I come into contact with. I'll also be sharing information about companies that can be better help than I can to those that may need it the most. I think a lot of the companies we heard from are not well-known and so lots of people are missing out on necessary help- i want to change that.
Location: Maplewood, MN  
Grade (rising into): 10th Grade

Their Summer Institute experience...

- What is the most important information or resource you got from Summer Institute?
  The most important information about this Summer Institute was that I am not the only one that is trying to understand more about this topic.

- Who was your favorite Special Guest? Why?
  My favorite special guest was Cornelius Williams because he really showed me that he was finding ways to protect children in the CSEA world.

Location: Inver Grove Heights, MN  
Grade (rising into): Second year college

Their Summer Institute experience...

- How would you rate this program overall?
  I did not have any expectations for this program when I applied but my unfixed expectation was exceeded. I learned so much from this 5-week program; it was interactive and inclusive, even though I didn’t talk much, I was able to observe, learn, and reflect. I met intelligent, knowledgeable, and overall incredible humans. I am glad that I was able to be a part of this I would not trade this amazing summer for last summer (last summer was not great 😒).

- How did you feel about the virtual learning environment?
  I liked learning online, the virtual learning environment is very inclusive. Even though sitting in front of the computer can be nerve wrecking, awkward and stiff, I still like it. I might not have being included in this program if it was not online.

- What did you find the most interesting topic from Summer Institute?
  The United nations and SDGs and MDGs. I learned about them more in depth when we had the assigned readings about it, I have heard about it but I did not know about it. After hearing Amina talk about it, I feel more confident about
the future knowing people are working tirelessly to make the world equal and connected. I am glad and working to make it happen.

Location: Lake Elmo, MN
Grade (rising into): 12th Grade

Their Summer Institute experience...

• How did you feel about the virtual learning environment?
  It felt strange in the beginning, but I eventually became very comfortable in this new environment. It was easy and convenient to do all of my tasks (meetings, emails, project, etc.) from one place. I feel like my email skills and ability to navigate platforms like Zoom have gotten better.

• What did you find the most interesting topic from Summer Institute?
The most interesting topic was learning about how investigators catch predators and abusers! It was cool to hear about their processes for both online and offline cases.

• Who was your favorite Special Guest? Why?
I most enjoyed the New York Time’s presentation because I got to see how media and press go upon covering such a heavy topic. It felt exclusive to hear about their research and process, and also how they came up with ways to avoid showing CSAM. Eric Oldenburg from Griffeye was another favorite because he showed us how Project Vic and Griffeye Analyze were created to minimize investigator’s and forensic examiner’s traumatic exposure to child exploitative material. Before his session, I didn’t realize that individuals in this field of work were being mentally affected.

Location: Queens, NY
Grade (rising into): 12th Grade

Their Summer Institute experience...

• What is the most important information or resource you got from Summer Institute?
The most important resource I got from summer institute was talking to Dr. Christoffer Rahm, a chief psychiatrist. I’ve always wondered what the side of the CSEA offenders consisted of and he gave us a clear understanding. Dr. Christoffer truly educated us the science and research behind an offender’s perspective.
How do you plan to use the acquired knowledge and skills?
I plan to use the acquired knowledge and skills by incorporating this topic of CSEA into my internship at Mount Sinai as a student ambassador. Every school year we focus on three different topics and build events around them. Hopefully this year, CSEA might be one of them ;)