



Volunteer Spotlight: November 2017 Yasaman

Yasaman, or Yasi as SFBFS staff call her, is a graduating senior at UC Davis majoring in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior. She found out about SFBFS' Summer Internships through her major advisor. At the time, she was looking to build her leadership skills and help the community.

When asked why she chose the Produce for All CSA project, with a smile Yasi responded, "It chose me."

Kelsey Maher, the coordinator for the project, wholeheartedly confirmed this. "We were looking for someone who could be trusted with the responsibility of being the liaison between our project and the Farsi-speaking community. Yasi fit that description perfectly! She is amazing at outreach, and is level-headed, hardworking, and builds relationships with her clients."

Yasi joined the Produce for All CSA project in its infancy. The project, which provides affordable farm fresh produce for CalFresh recipients, has seen major growth through Yasi's efforts. As an essential team member of the project, she uses her native language, Farsi, to translate documents and communicate with clients through outreach events and phone calls. Yasaman has also taken on the role of co-teaching the project's cooking classes. Yasi's favorite moment was the week that they sold out of bags before noon.

When she's not volunteering, Yasi is your typical 'go-getter' kind of student who stays busy studying for school, facilitating three research projects, and working as a bus driver for UC Davis. As a young girl growing up in Tehran, she rarely saw females driving public transportation. Yasi wanted to take the opportunity to move beyond what she thought possible. Through her actions, Yasi not only empowers herself, but also those around her.

