



XAVIER UNIVERSITY SOCIAL WORK

Alumni Spotlight

Danielle Stone, BSW '21



"I am currently doing a year of service in Newark, NJ with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC). JVC is rooted in Ignatian tradition and guided by the values of spirituality, social justice, community, and simple living. Volunteers live in an intentional community with other folks from the program and all work at various agencies in their city of service. After graduating with a BSW, I wanted to immerse myself in a different community, gain exposure to various social work settings, and continue learning about service, social injustices, and upholding human dignity and worth. Many of the JVC values overlap with the profession of social work, and it has been helpful to continue gaining skills and knowledge.

I am working at a Community Charter School as the Student Life Coordinator. Some of my main responsibilities include organizing and overseeing the elective program, preparing data for state audits and grants, assisting social workers with life skills classes, and running projects such as the school book fair and Girl's Mentoring Program. My education at Xavier provided micro skills for working one-on-one with students, along with mezzo skills for leading small groups and teaching an elective class. I have also used macro tools from our community organizing class and applied knowledge of asset-based community development when identifying members of the community who can teach electives, and working to strengthen the relationship between our school and the surrounding neighborhood.



Stone, second row left in top photo, with her JVC team; Community Charter School in Newark, NJ; community mural

Next year, I will be attending the MSW Program at the University of Pennsylvania. It has been helpful to spend a year discerning my future path, and I'm looking forward to being back in an educational setting where I can gain more specialized knowledge. I am hoping to be placed in a hospital or educational setting and support children with chronic physical and mental health conditions. My education at Xavier and experiences through JVC have taught me the importance of life-long learning and strengthened a desire to continue building relationships."