



CLINICIAN INTERN SPECIAL REPORT

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By: **CHRISTIANE BUNIEL**

“**THE VALUE OF WORKING WITH CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN A ONE-ON-ONE SETTING GIVES ME A SENSE OF FULFILLMENT, HOPING THEY RECEIVE THE HELP THEY NEED OVER THEIR SITUATION.**”

CFG’s **CASTLE Program** has dramatically affected the course of my working life. Through the Program, I received the opportunity to work in different positions as an employee and an intern, which allowed me to incorporate knowledge acquisition and build the skills necessary in my practice. This career break has helped me develop a demeanor of professionalism and work with confidence.

Back in 2019, as a summer intern, I learned what it is like to work in a behavioral health environment. During this time, I observed and interacted with youth in a carefully controlled environment to promote safety and collaborate with counselors and parents to report youth behavior and progress. The internship position provided insight into my career goals and plans, which I am determined to pursue.

At present, as a counselor, I work with individuals, groups, and communities to improve mental health by encouraging clients to discuss emotions and experiences and examine issues including anger management, relationships, and self-image while developing therapeutic processes. These tasks reinforce and enhance my knowledge in mental health care and promote growth and proficiency as a future clinician.

While working as a counselor, I am also doing field placement or master’s level internship in CASTLE Berlin. As a master’s level intern, I perform duties such as managing caseloads and developing treatment plans alongside my field supervisor. Other responsibilities include evaluation of client needs, treatment options, and solutions to current challenges.

With these responsibilities come a greater understanding of why the social work field is a calling and not just another job. The value of working with clients and their families in a one-on-one setting gives me a sense of fulfillment, hoping they receive the help they need over their situation. I am thankful for the opportunity to gain clinical experience under the supervision of a qualified licensed social worker as an intern.

Through CFG, my experience as a current counselor and intern solidifies the population I choose to serve and provides me with valued and relevant practical experiences to prepare for my future career as a clinician. I have one more school year as an intern with CFG, and I am forever grateful to the supervisors and mentors who unselfishly impart their knowledge, experience, personal advice, and expertise to an aspiring clinician like me. Thank you, CFG, for opening your doors to students with the same passion and vision as you in behavioral and mental health.



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