Summer Community Service Fellowship (SCSF)

Quotes from SCSF Fellows – Summer 2026

Overview: This document includes approved quotes from SCSF Summer 2026 Fellows. Clubs and SIGs are welcome to feature these quotes in their SCSF marketing and fundraising materials.

Student: Alexandra Arguello
SCSF service opportunity: MILPA Collective
Funded by: Harvard Club of Silicon Valley
"This summer, I served with MILPA in my hometown of Salinas, California, where I contributed to the Ohlone Land Back initiative, supported formerly incarcerated individuals navigating reentry, and worked with youth through the Telpochcalli project. Through these experiences, I strengthened my communication and community-building skills while learning directly from the rich stories and experiences of the people MILPA serves. Most importantly, this work deepened my connection to my community and cultural heritage while strengthening my commitment to pursuing criminal defense and immigration law."

Student: Hudson Allain
SCSF service opportunity: Yale Center for Environmental Policy and Law
Funded by: Harvard Club of Southern Connecticut
"This summer, I worked as a Research Assistant at the Yale Center for Environmental Policy and Law, contributing to research on sustainability, fisheries, and international trade through data analysis and fact checking. The experience strengthened my analytical and research skills while giving me greater exposure to how environmental policy can affect our world."

Student: Michelle Balderrama
SCSF service opportunity: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Funded by: Harvard Club of Washington, D.C.
"This summer, I worked at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, supporting Commissioner Mondaire Jones and contributing to a 200+ page report commissioned by Congress on civil rights enforcement in higher education. I conducted legal research, testimony synthesis, data analysis, and drafting and editing report language. I also led the drafting of the report's findings and recommendations chapter and supported a briefing on mental health in juvenile justice facilities, which strengthened my interest in the intersection of law, neuroscience, and criminal justice and shaped my plans to pursue law school and further graduate study."

Student: Noah Duckett
SCSF service opportunity: Meals Matter
Funded by: Harvard Black Alumni Society
"*This summer sharpened what I actually want out of my career. I'm studying economics, and running Meals Matter has made the abstract parts of that degree, incentive design, resource allocation, coordination problems, feel concrete in a way a classroom can't replicate. Structuring the fall campaign was an exercise in incentive design under real constraints: limited money, unpaid volunteers, and a mission that has to stay the priority even when the fundraising mechanics get more sophisticated. I'm more convinced than before that I want a career where I'm building and scaling something, not just analyzing it from the outside. Whether that ends up being in a formal business setting or another nonprofit, this summer confirmed that I'm drawn to the operational problem of taking something small and making it work at scale, without losing what made it worth doing in the first place."*

Student: Hayat Farah
SCSF service opportunity: Restoration House of Houston/Meow Pups Organization
Funded by: Harvard University Club of Houston
"*This summer, I worked with Meow Pups Organization (MPO), a nonprofit dedicated to getting animal rescues and shelters the support they need. I worked as a social media intern, so my day-to-day included making specialized social media campaigns to boost MPO's presence online. This helped me develop a lot of professional skills, such as learning how to take on an initiative and ship it out, and I am deeply grateful for this experience overall.****"***

Student: Lonne Gilbert
SCSF service opportunity: The New Impact Fund
Funded by: Harvard Club of Minnesota
"*This summer I helped New Impact Fund with writing different docs (executive summaries, financial packets for small business borrowers) and ran point on their big house parties, from building the invite list to sending out invitations. It gave me a real look at how community lending and fundraising actually work behind the scenes, and I picked up solid skills in document production and event logistics along the way."*

Student: Isabella John
SCSF service opportunity: Next Step
Funded by: Harvard Club of Minnesota
"*As an intern with the community outreach team at Next Step, I shared social support resources with Minneapolis residents, engaged with local youth, and shadowed trauma-informed hospital responders offering social support to victims of violent crimes. I gained first-hand experience with underserved communities both within and outside of the healthcare setting, reaffirming my commitment to approach medicine from a social justice lens."*

Student: Lauren Mei
SCSF service opportunity: Writers & Waymakers
Funded by: Harvard Club of Southern California
"*This summer, I worked with Writers & Waymakers, an Orange County-based youth-led nonprofit dedicated to closing literacy gaps in access, representation, and diversity. Working primarily in development strategy and community outreach, I helped strengthen the organization's operating structure and expand its capacity to serve young people in underserved communities. Overall, this summer affirmed my passion for service within children's education. The experience connected my public-service commitments with my academic interest in children's learning while deepening my conviction that powerful representative storytelling remains urgently needed in educational spaces. This learning would not be possible without the strong support of the CPSES Harvard Club fellowship and I would highly recommend the service program to any students who are looking for support on service projects within the Los Angeles community."*

Student: Olajuwon Oladipo
SCSF service opportunity:
Funded by: Harvard Club in Concord
"*As an intern for the Volunteer Lawyers Project, I thoroughly interviewed clients, collected pertinent information and documents, and presented their cases to our pro bono partners. This experience affirmed for me the importance of promoting pro bono volunteering within the legal profession. It also gave me a strong sense of the many paths that can be pursued within civil legal services."*

Student: Anna Popnikolova
SCSF service opportunity: NPR WCAI
Funded by: Harvard Club of Cape Cod
"*My summer internship with NPR was a remote job in which I wrote weekly scripts and conducted interviews reporting on news for the Cape & Islands on Nantucket. I learned how to condense stories for radio, what makes a good script, and why public radio is so important. I got to explore valuable questions about public media, trust, and creating news that our listeners can trust."*

Student: Katherine Romero
SCSF service opportunity: Make the Road CT
Funded by: Harvard Club of Southern Connecticut
"*I worked supporting the Communications and Youth Engagement teams at Make the Road CT. I created more content for the Instagram and Facebook accounts at Make the Road CT. I supported the creation of presentations/lessons for the youth and worked to connect with each individual youth as they approached the time to apply to college."*

Student: Summer Rose
SCSF service opportunity: VA Boston Healthcare
Funded by: Harvard Club of Boston
"*My summer working with the VA Boston Director's Office was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I learned a great deal about medical administration, federal programs, and benefits policy, and I was given real ownership over deliverables that reached patients and providers across the healthcare system and projects that affected VA facilities throughout the region. This internship changed the way I think about public service, civic responsibility, and honoring our nation's Veterans."*

Student: Robert Satcher
SCSF service opportunity: The Metropolitan Organization
Funded by: Harvard University Club of Houston
"*As a Harvard Club of Houston Summer Fellow, I worked with The Metropolitan Organization (TMO), analyzing voter turnout data and then leading a canvassing effort across thousands of homes to understand civic disengagement in underserved neighborhoods in Houston. The experience sharpened both my analytical and interpersonal skills, and taught me that data can point you to a problem, but it takes real conversation to understand it. It also confirmed that I want to keep pairing quantitative work with real community impact as I move toward a career in finance or consulting."*

Student: Anuj Singh
SCSF service opportunity: The Center for Practical Bioethics
Funded by: Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Kansas City
"*My work this summer has focused on understanding the current landscape of supported decision-making (SDM) to increase the autonomy of neurodivergent adults across the US, with particular attention to bioethical implications. This experience was incredibly meaningful for me because I was able to learn more about a topic that perfectly intersects my interests in medicine and government. In the future, I plan to continue my work with this research group and in the SDM field because I have found something I'm incredibly passionate about."*

Student: Ryan Song
SCSF service opportunity: The Los Angeles General Medical Center
Funded by: Harvard Club of Southern California
"*As a volunteer at Los Angeles General Medical Center, I supported daily clinical operations in the Orthopedics Clinic by preparing patient rooms, packaging pre-op supplies, and assisting nursing staff across busy shifts. Shadowing fast-paced environments like the ER and ICU gave me a firsthand look at staff burnout and the urgent need for expanded language translation services in public healthcare. Ultimately, this experience solidified my desire to consider a career in nursing and inspired my long-term goal of improving language accessibility for diverse patient communities."*

Student: Max Surprenant
SCSF service opportunity: Catching Joy
Funded by: Harvard Club of Boston
"This summer, I worked independently to expand Catching Joy's partnership network and organize our data on past service work, while still carrying out the hands-on work that sustains any nonprofit, packing donations, running deliveries, and coordinating campaigns like our book drive with partner organizations across Boston. Balancing new outreach with the less glamorous work of building databases and records taught me the discipline nonprofits need to remain accountable and effective over the long term. More broadly, this summer's direct exposure to underserved families and children reaffirmed my commitment to service and sharpened my interest in pursuing public service law after graduation."

Student: Latti Tamiru
SCSF service opportunity: Colectiva Legal Del Pueblo
Funded by: Harvard Club of Seattle
"*This summer, as a legal intern at the nonprofit Colectiva Legal Del Pueblo, my primary responsibilities included creating initial drafts of forms and cover letters for attorney review, and preparing work permit applications for asylum seekers. I was also able to help draft social media posts as well as immigration and legal aid presentations. Overall, my time at Colectiva Legal gave me the opportunity to develop practical skills, learn from professionals with different backgrounds, and gain a deeper understanding of immigration law."*