As the 31st year of Urban Health Project draws to a close and the summer begins, we look back on our time as co-directors and the accomplishments of UHP. We began this role a year ago excited but with so much to learn. Throughout the year, we were blown away by the passion we found in the community for this organization and by how much we grew to believe in the mission of UHP. We have been fortunate to see the impact of our unique model through communicating with our many stakeholders. We have seen it in this year’s intern reflections, when talking to employees and clients of our many community sites, and even in comments and surveys of UHP alumni. The impact of UHP is profound and long-lasting.

In the summer of 2017, 19 interns were placed at 17 community sites in the Cincinnati area, completing nearly 6,000 hours of service. Interns provided service to vulnerable populations, including at-risk youth, minority populations, and individuals who struggle with homelessness, mental health disorders, or substance abuse. Internships aimed to increase awareness of the challenges faced by specific populations and of the resources to best serve these groups of individuals. Intern projects included analysis of the multifactorial components that influence addiction and recovery in Cincinnati; development of interactive self-confidence modules for women who had experienced human trafficking and substance use disorders; organization of a health fair and routine health checkups for transient workers; and many other strong initiatives.

UHP has grown significantly in the past year, adding more opportunities to do community-based research, doubling the number of applicants, and moving forward with program quality improvement research. While we are sad to move on from our position as co-directors, we know UHP is in strong hands with this year’s co-directors and interns, and with the invaluable support from our board members, funders, and community members. For this support, we are incredibly grateful. Thank you for your commitment to Urban Health Project. We are eager to see where UHP is headed next.

Sincerely,
Molly Leavitt and Jenna Barengo
2017 COMMUNITY SITES
Bethany House Services
Bethesda North OB/Gyn Center
Catholic Charities of Southwest Ohio
Center for Addiction Treatment
Cincinnati Children’s Primary Pediatric Care Center
City Gospel Mission
Crossroad Health Center – Over-the-Rhine
Division of Community Women’s Health- UC Department of OB/GYN
First Step Home
Good Samaritan Free Health Center
Lighthouse New Beginnings
Lighthouse Youth Development Crisis Center
Off the Streets ® - Cincinnati Union Bethel
Project Connect
Welcome House of Northern Kentucky

Mission
To educate, inspire, and challenge medical students through their service to marginalized populations in Greater Cincinnati to produce more socially responsible physicians who have a greater understanding of the many factors that impact health.

Objectives
To improve the health of the community by providing motivated and competent medical student interns to local organizations serving marginalized populations without any cost to the agencies.
To dedicate 320 hours of service per intern annually to disadvantaged populations of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.
To develop socially responsible physicians who are adequately prepared to face the challenge associated with providing quality care to underserved populations.

History
Urban Health Project was founded in 1986 when medical students at the University of Cincinnati decided they needed to supplement their rigorous medical studies with lessons in humanity. The program was intended to allow the students to begin interacting with diverse underserved patient populations during the summer after their first year of medical school. The hope was that these students would learn to see the patients they interacted with first and foremost as people rather than merely as diseases that needed treatment. In line with its founding ideals, Urban Health Project continues to teach students valuable lessons about working with underserved and recognizing social factors that impact health. Years later, UHP interns have become a powerful force in improving the under-served in Cincinnati.

2017 UHP INTERNs
George Adly
Laura Bess
Amanda Beyer
Logan Borgelt
Michela Carter
Anthony DeMarco
Caroline Hensley
Aaron Linn
Alyssa Lucas
Julie Luna-Torres
Colleen O’Neil
Evan Onusko
Brad Pearson
Maria Radzwhon
Roxanne Rezaei
Jessica Smith
Ridhima Vemula
Omar Saqr
Cody Van Linge

2017 Intern Reflections
I am so grateful these ladies have taught me who they truly are. They are warriors. They have survived unfathomable circumstances… I will strive to approach every encounter with a humbled heart which searches to see beyond the surface of an individual. Thank you to the New Beginnings ladies for giving me my own new beginning.

Michela Carter
Lighthouse New Beginnings

UHP’s Impact on Alumni
63% said UHP affected or greatly affected their career as a whole.
35% said UHP affected or greatly affected specialty choice

“UHP was a seminal experience and shaped my thinking about healthcare delivery. I have sought to address disparities ever since.”
-1988 alumni

BOARD OF ADVISORS
Dr. Aurora Bennett
Andrew Frankart
Dr. Derek Wheeler
Jessica Hwang
Dr. Joseph Kiesler
Laura Dankovich
Dr. Lorraine Stephens
Dr. Laura Malosh
Laura Wilson
Rhonda Lewis
Dr. Teresa Meier

Anthony DeMarco
UC Family Medicine