

Geneva House

STAFF INTERN UPDATE: DECEMBER 2019

This year we have been blessed with an incredible staff intern at Queen's - Victoria Sharpe. The staff intern position is a program that provides graduating or recently graduated students with an opportunity to grow as a high capacity leader and to discern their calling in life. Victoria has stepped into this role amazingly and has been a huge blessing to our community and to me personally. She is being shaped by God significantly and God is using her to shape the lives of many others at Queen's. Here is a brief look at who she is, what she has been doing, and how she is being transformed.

VICTORIA SHARPE (QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY)



Throughout this semester, I have really felt myself settle into the role of Staff Intern at Geneva House. I have had the privilege of working with Steve Kooy directly to ensure that things at the Queen's campus are running smoothly and that our team is working to achieve God's purpose for our ministry this year. Primarily, my roles have included coordinating our weekly Soup Supper, organizing and facilitating orientation week events/teams for incoming first year students, leading two huddles, investing in students through one-on-one peer mentorship, and supporting Steve Kooy at speaking engagements. Although each of these is fairly variable depending on the time of year and need, I devote approximately 30 hours each week to ministry. This also includes weekly intern meetings with Steve, and biweekly staff meetings with the rest of our staff team.

A large part of my role, as I mentioned previously, is bringing our team together to ensure we are working according to God's purpose and the mission set out before us of being an incredible community on Queen's campus. As a Geneva resident, one of my main goals this year was to cultivate an environment of encouragement and care in the house. I saw this as being critical to the mission of Geneva House as we welcome and care for students and I partnered with several others, specifically the other residents, in ensuring this would take place. We have been able to see our work pay off in the lives of many students who regularly come to study, have life-giving conversations, or simply connect over tea between classes. I believe God is working through this spirit of openness and inclusivity to stir students to connect further with us and with Him.

In particular, I had the opportunity to connect with a second-year student in November this year. She had been directed to come and visit Geneva House by a past teacher who had heard Steve speak at her church in years gone by. This student is not a Christian but through her school had been exposed to the Gospel and many Christian values. When she came to Geneva House, she was bursting with questions. I sat with her for approximately 45 minutes on a Wednesday afternoon discussing faith and what it was like to be a Christian student on campus. As we continued to talk, she repeated several times how nervous she had been to come into the house and how amazed she was at the kindness of everyone in the house. I introduced her to another one of my housemates who simultaneously took her under her wing, and the three of us continued to chat about life and the hardships this student was facing at this time. Since then, she has come back to the house many times, to talk with us, to study and to further establish her role in our community. Next semester, she plans to join a huddle where we are praying she will find true freedom in Jesus. It is during times like these that I am so thankful for my role at Geneva House, as I get to invest in students and help them to find answers to their questions about faith.

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In my personal life, God has been teaching me a great deal about leadership and how to balance living out both grace and truth. Through my personal devotional time and in my huddles, I have been able to explore the path that God has set before me by the leading of the Holy Spirit, a large part of which pertains to my future. As I prepare to graduate from Queen's, I am constantly reminded of all the ways in which the world wants me to go, and which directions I should move in according to the definitions of success others' have given to me. One thing that God has been reinforcing for me this semester is that I do not need to worry because he is holding my hand through it all. Colossians 2:6-7 are some of my life verses as they remind me of my responsibilities in following Christ. In one of my huddles, we decided to read through this book and as we got to this section, I was reminded again of the powerful simplicity found in these words. The author says that we must "continue to live our lives in Christ, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as we were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." As I continue to determine where my path will lead upon graduation, as I develop into a leader, as I pursue Jesus with the entirety of my heart, I will use these truths to remind me of the way God defines success and live my life in these ways.

I always appreciate the support that I receive from the Geneva team, whether that is the Board, our donors or other staff. I am so grateful to those that continue to work to help this ministry flourish and, in turn, invest in me. My leadership abilities have grown so much in my time at Geneva House, as a resident, a student intern and, now, as the staff intern. The generosity and faithfulness of everyone who contributes through time, money, prayer or energy does not go unnoticed and I thank God for the willingness of each of those individuals to serve in such humble ways. I would always appreciate continued prayer for my own openness to hear from God and a willingness to grow in all areas of my life; especially those that are more uncomfortable. Through this internship, I have become so much more aware of areas of growth in my spiritual and personal lives. I know that God will use the experiences I've had and lessons that I have learned to fulfill His purpose for my life, and I'm so thankful to all that have made that possible.



THANK YOU

Thank you so much for all your support for the staff intern position. Your investment is making a tremendous impact in our community and we are so thankful for you and your partnership! May God bless you for your generosity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Steven Kooy".

Steven Kooy
Geneva House Ministry Team Leader