For my Lilly Internship, I worked at the Hopkins House in Alexandria, Virginia and with the Chillum Youth Project in Hyattsville, Maryland. The first two weeks of my internship were spent at the Hopkins House, a pre-school where “every child - regardless of their family's income level - deserves an equal chance to this education.”1 While there, I worked with, cleaned up after, and read to the Junior-Kindergarten class. I gained some valuable insight into teaching younger children, especially on how to read to them, discipline them, and help them get excited about learning. Every day, I helped set up meals, got the children to and from the playground safely, and read to them in the afternoon. I have definitely gained a new appreciation for teachers, especially of younger children, after working there.

At the Chillum Youth Project, six other teachers and I went with thirty-five children every day on field trips into D.C. The coach bus that we traveled in became a mobile classroom; for the duration of the commute from Langley Park (where we picked the children up) into D.C., we would practice math problems on white-boards, use flashcards, read to them out of workbooks, and most importantly, encourage them to have confidence in themselves and their abilities. I absolutely loved working with the program; the other teachers and my supervisor were all extremely dedicated to helping the children experience life outside of Langley Park and in getting them excited about learning.

1 http://www.hopkinshouse.org/about/presidents-message/
The people I met on this journey were incredible. At the Hopkins House, the principal and teachers were always welcoming and supportive. The kids could be a handful sometimes, but the experience I gained was invaluable. At the Chillum Youth Project, my supervisors as well as the other teachers were not only dedicated to the children, but also made sure that I, too, was accomplishing my goals for my internship. I’m so thankful that I had such a valuable teaching experience, one that I would love to continue in the future!