LSDI Executive Summary

In applying for the 2011 Lilly Summer Discernment Institute I had a clear nonprofit that I wanted to work with, The Center for Nonviolence (CFNV). There were a number of reasons as to why I wanted to work with them; however, the top reasons were because I had seen the effects that violence can have on people, during my previous summer internship at a homeless shelter. I also felt that their mission was a powerful and appealing one, but I knew they needed someone with a communications background to take their exposure to the next level. Due to the time that relationship building takes, I anticipated only working on that aspect of my goal and in getting the center exposure; I was going to help the victims in some way. Nevertheless, I would have never been able to predict how my summer would actually unfold.

Within the first week I realized that there was no such thing as only focusing on one thing when working at a nonprofit. In the week to follow I became involved in multiple aspects of both client service and development at the Center:

Client Service

- Observed Men Batters Program Facilitators
- Observed Youth Program’s Critical thinking & Anger Management
- Representative at community events
- Assisted in translating for Spanish speaking clients

Development

- Public Relations
- Intercommunications Program
- Grant Writing
- Created Marketing & P.R. Plans
- New Media/Website Development
- Events Committee

Being involved in so many different aspects of an organization gave me a very clear perspective on what it takes to work for a nonprofit. Furthermore, all the goals we were able to hit in such a short period of time helped me realize that I am capable of producing work beyond my self-imposed limits.