

# High Road Fellowship

## Engaged Learning & Action Research Fellowships for Cornell Students Summer 2016 Projects in Buffalo NY

### If YOU are interested in . . .

grassroots economic development. . .urban revitalization. . .small business development. . .  
. . .poverty alleviation. . .the green economy. . .civic engagement. . .labor-community alliances. . .  
public economic policy. . .quality job creation. . .creative culture and the new economy. . .

### Then consider this summer experience. . . working in Buffalo's living co-laboratory. . .



This fellowship program has opportunities for **Cornell undergraduate students** to participate as a group in research, active learning and service in community-based economic development in Buffalo. Undergoing dynamic reinvention, **Buffalo is home to a rich array of creative organizations** tackling rust belt challenges. Students learn about and contribute to vibrant local innovation by working with nonprofit organizations, government officials, businesses, and labor advocates focused on revitalizing the metro Buffalo economy.

**The program:** The summer fellows in Buffalo work through June and July, **earning \$4000 for eight 35-hour weeks**. Students work on a specific project with their partner organizations 7.5 hours per day, Monday through Thursday. Every Friday the students as a group are immersed in the city life of Buffalo, with neighborhood walking tours, field trips and cultural experiences; meetings with guest experts and civic leaders; and sharing their weekly journals, project experiences and research. This spring, a required **one-credit pre-course** will be offered on campus introducing fellows to the types of innovative organizations they'll be working with—those creating the community resources and capacities needed to redirect investment and control of economic development for the benefit of all. The course will emphasize issues like ethical citizenship, intercultural competence and community power dynamics.

**Each student is placed with a partner organization of the Partnership for the Public Good**, a civic organization made up of over 190 affiliated partners promoting more equitable and sustainable economic development in Greater Buffalo. Students gain hands-on experiences working with organizations in the vital nonprofit sector of the economy where job creation, neighborhood revitalization, and the greening of the economy are everyday reality.



### Summer 2016 Placements:

- ACCESS of WNY, Inc.
- Arts Services Initiative of WNY
- Bak USA
- Buffalo Arts Studio
- Buffalo Center for Art & Technology
- Center for Employment Opportunities
- Coalition for Economic Justice
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- The Foundry
- Grassroots Gardens
- John R. Oishei Foundation
- Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo
- Literacy New York Buffalo-Niagara
- Massachusetts Avenue Project
- Open Buffalo
- Partnership for the Public Good
- PUSH Buffalo
- United Way of Buffalo and Erie County
- Western New York Law Center
- Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI)
- WNY Area Labor Federation
- Young Audiences of WNY

See [www.ilr.cornell.edu/highroad/](http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/highroad/)

Contact

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Cornell University  
ILR School



## 2016 High Road Placements

### ACCESS of WNY, Inc.

609 Ridge Road  
Lackawanna, NY 14218  
716.332.5901

[www.accesswny.org](http://www.accesswny.org)

Our vision at ACCESS of WNY, Inc. is to empower families and youth to lead informed, productive, and fulfilling lives by providing vital tools and services. As well as to assist the Arab immigrant population adapt to life in America, while preserving our heritage and sharing it with our fellow friends and neighbors in hopes of creating flourishing bonds and bridges.



**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in immigration services and educational opportunities for refugees and immigrants.**

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### Arts Services Initiative of WNY

95 Perry Street, Suite 402  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.846.8270

[www.asiwny.org](http://www.asiwny.org)

The mission of Arts Services Initiative of Western New York (ASI) is to promote the cultural sector's vital role in economic development. ASI fosters capacity building, collaboration, and advocacy efforts for the region's cultural sector, an integral part of the community. ASI works closely with the Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance and the New York Council on the Arts, and provides a broad range of services to the arts community.



**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in the arts and their role in economic and community vitality.**

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### BAK USA

Compass East Building  
425 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.248.2704

[www.bakusa.com](http://www.bakusa.com)

Bak USA is a social enterprise that seeks to further universal education, employment, and connectivity through affordable tablets and smartphones. Bak USA is nurturing vibrant communities in Buffalo, NY by employing willing, friendly people who are looking for a supportive environment to start a new career. BAK USA assembles high-tech tablet PC's by hand in Buffalo, NY for educational use all over the world. Our products are made by people, for people. We hope to bridge educational gaps around the world by providing reliable, user-friendly instruments to learn at an affordable price. We sell tools, not gadgets.



**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in social enterprise and triple bottom line economics.**

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### Buffalo Arts Studio

2495 Main Street  
Suite 500  
Buffalo, NY 14214  
716.833.4450

[www.buffaloartsstudio.org](http://www.buffaloartsstudio.org)

Buffalo Arts Studio (BAS) is a not-for-profit arts organization whose mission is to provide affordable studio space and regular public exposure for regional, national, and international artists through exhibitions, and to enrich the community with art classes, mural programs, and public art. Exhibitions, public art projects, and classes help the studio serve as a cultural center.



**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in public art and its role in economic revitalization of cities.**

### Buffalo Center for Arts & Technology

1221 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14209  
716.259.1680

[www.buffaloartstechcenter.org](http://www.buffaloartstechcenter.org)

The mission of the Buffalo Center for Arts & Technology (BCAT), as part of Buffalo's economic revitalization is twofold:

- To keep youth in school through high school completion so they are able to take advantage of the post-secondary opportunities the "Say Yes" scholarship program makes available to them, We do this by offering high-quality and high-tech arts instruction and studio space.
- To assist unemployed or underemployed adults in securing jobs with wages sufficient to support a family. We accomplish this through NYS Education Department-approved training programs that will lead to jobs in the healthcare industry.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for an individual interested in the arts, education and workforce development in urban communities.**

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### Center for Employment Opportunities

170 Franklin Street- Suite 701  
Buffalo, New York 14202  
716.842.6320 Ext. 501

[www.ceoworks.org](http://www.ceoworks.org)

For more than 30 years, the Center for Employment Opportunities' goal has been to provide immediate, comprehensive, and effective employment services for men and women returning from incarceration. CEO offers comprehensive employment services exclusively for people with criminal records. CEO's model is based on a highly structured program of life skill education, short-term paid transitional employment, full-time job placement, and post-placement services.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for an individual who would like to contribute to re-entry employment for formerly incarcerated people with an interest in innovate workforce development practices.**

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### Coalition for Economic Justice

237 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.892.5877

[www.cejbuffalo.org](http://www.cejbuffalo.org)

The Coalition for Economic Justice (CEJ) is an ongoing coalition of labor, faith, community, academic and student activists engaged in dynamic campaigns for living wages, rights at work, accountable economic development, and health care for all. CEJ is the Buffalo affiliate of Jobs with Justice.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student committed to workers' rights and campaigns against low-wage work.**

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### Cornell Cooperative Extension

617 Main Street, Suite 300  
Buffalo, NY 14203

[www.erie.cce.cornell.edu](http://www.erie.cce.cornell.edu)

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is a key outreach system of Cornell University with a strong public mission and an extensive local presence that is responsive to the needs in New York communities. CCE is a participant in the nationwide network of Cooperative Extension programs, which began in 1914 as a means of applying land-grant university research in understandable and useful ways to farmers and rural families. The CCE



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Erie County

educational system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in youth development focusing on civic engagement, college prep and career readiness programming.**

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#### **The Foundry**

298 Northampton Street  
Buffalo, NY 14208  
716.220.8842

[www.thefoundrybuffalo.org](http://www.thefoundrybuffalo.org)



The Foundry is an incubator and creative community space on the East Side of Buffalo. We provide opportunities to build business, create art & craft, and inspire the next generation of makers, learners, and doers. At our 25,000 square foot building, we offer:

- Workshop and office space for artists, artisans, tradespeople, and small businesses.
- A Multi-function community space to support art performances, education, and public gatherings.
- A neighborhood anchor institution for artistic expression, creative exchange, and the encouragement of new ideas and productive action.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in social entrepreneurship, business incubation and urban development.**

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#### **Grassroots Gardens**

2495 Main Street, Suite 408  
Buffalo, NY 14214

[www.grassrootsgardens.org](http://www.grassrootsgardens.org)



Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo enables community-led efforts to revitalize the city and enhance quality of life through the creation and maintenance of community gardens that beautify blocks, grow healthy food, and strengthen neighborhood spirit.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in urban agriculture, vacant lot reclamation and community development.**

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#### **John R. Oishei Foundation**

One Seneca Tower  
Suite 3650  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.856.9490

[www.oishei.org](http://www.oishei.org)



The John R. Oishei Foundation is the area's largest private foundation with over \$300 million in assets. In addition to grant making, the Foundation is committed to devoting our time, people and networks to convening stakeholders around issues; initiating support and collaboration; sharing knowledge; building nonprofits' organizational capacity; and supporting the development of promising leaders in all communities and sectors.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for someone who would like to learn first-hand about philanthropy and its role in community and economic development.**

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### **Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo**

237 Main Street, Suite 1602  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.853.9555

[www.legalaidbuffalo.org](http://www.legalaidbuffalo.org)

The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo provides quality legal representation and advice to persons in need. The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo provides legal aid to those who due to poverty cannot procure legal representation that meets or exceeds the quality available elsewhere in the legal community. It also gives its clients positive and productive relationships and creates similar relationships with governments, courts, regulating agencies, the bar, funding agencies, volunteers, and community groups and individuals.

***2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in enforcement of legal rights and accessibility for immigrant and refugee communities.***

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### **Literacy New York Buffalo-Niagara**

1 Lafayette Square  
Buffalo, NY 14203

[www.literacybuffalo.org](http://www.literacybuffalo.org)

Literacy New York Buffalo-Niagara is the region's sole provider of free, one-on-one adult literacy services. Our mission is to open pathways to expanded opportunities for adult learners and schoolchildren by enhancing their literacy skills and nurturing their well-being. Our vision is to be an integral partner in the revitalization of our community.

***2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in history and summer youth education.***

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### **Massachusetts Avenue Project**

271 Grant Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716.882.5327

[www.mass-ave.org](http://www.mass-ave.org)

The Massachusetts Avenue Project nurtures the growth of a diverse, equitable community food system to promote local economic opportunities, access to affordable and nutritious food, and social-change education. MAP hosts the *Growing Green Program*, a youth development and urban agriculture program about increasing healthy food access.

***2016 Summer Fellowship Project for someone who would like to learn first-hand about the local food movement, urban farming and summer youth education.***

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### **Open Buffalo**

237 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.852.4191

[www.openbuffalo.org](http://www.openbuffalo.org)

Open Buffalo is a civic initiative to make major, long-term improvements in justice and equity; it is an unprecedented collaboration among a diverse group of partners; and it is one of three projects in the nation chosen for the Open Places Initiative of the Open Society Foundations.

***2016 Summer Fellowship Projects for students interested in progressive economic development policies, utilizing technology and data for social change and leadership development.***

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**Partnership for the Public Good / Assembly Member Sean Ryan**

617 Main Street, Suite 300  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.852.4191  
[www.ppgbuffalo.org](http://www.ppgbuffalo.org)



The Partnership for the Public Good is working to build a more just, sustainable and culturally vibrant Greater Buffalo through action-oriented research, policy development and citizen engagement. With over 150 affiliated partners, PPG develops an annual Community Agenda of policy planks, hosts a weekly radio show, and produces publications and other resources to give the nonprofit community and citizens a stronger voice in public policy.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student committed to successful implementation of living wage ordinances and language access legislation.**

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**PUSH Buffalo**

271 Grant Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716.882.5327  
[www.pushbuffalo.org](http://www.pushbuffalo.org)



PUSH Buffalo is a local membership-based community organization fighting to make affordable housing a reality on Buffalo's West Side. Push works to mobilize residents to create strong neighborhoods with quality, affordable housing, expand local hiring opportunities and to advance economic justice in Buffalo.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student who wants to be directly involved in grassroots neighborhood development, urban housing, and community empowerment.**

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**The United Way of Buffalo and Erie County**

742 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
716.887.2626  
[www.uwbec.org](http://www.uwbec.org)



The overall mission of the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County is to bring people, resources, and organizations together to improve community well-being. Key to achieving our mission is being able to widely communicate the most pressing issues in our community and how we are/ should be collectively working towards improving these issues. As part of this endeavor, UWBEC's newly created research and analytics department is increasingly using data to understand what the highest priority needs are, what issues the community most identifies with, and what the most effective interventions may be.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for someone interested in community-controlled capital, financial education, and credit unions for low-income neighborhoods.**

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**Western New York Law Center**

237 Main Street, Suite 1130  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.855.0203  
[www.wnylc.net](http://www.wnylc.net)



The WNY Law Center is a nonprofit legal services organization of legal professionals representing low-income people in a full range of civil matters. They engage in direct representation of homeowners facing foreclosure as well as in fair lending advocacy and education. They also maintain the Online Resource Center with the Empire Justice Center.

**2016 Summer Fellowship Project for someone interested in mortgage foreclosure prevention, legal research, and equitable judicial settlement processes.**

### **Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI)**

436 Grant Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716.393.4088

[www.wedibuffalo.org](http://www.wedibuffalo.org)

The Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI) began as a mission of Westminster Presbyterian Church to improve the quality of life for residents of Buffalo's West Side, but became a separate 501 (c) 3 organization by 2007. In 2013, WEDI revised its mission and now focuses on offering "business and educational opportunity to people of Buffalo's West Side" in hopes of achieving our vision for a vibrant, stable, and inviting community. WEDI continues to bring together people with determination and desire to turn the West Side into a successful neighborhood and people who have the resources to make it happen.

***2016 Summer Fellowship Project for someone committed to grassroots economic development work focused on poverty alleviation.***

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### **WNY Area Labor Federation**

2495 Main Street, Suite #440  
Buffalo, NY 14214  
716.852.0375

[www.wnyalf.org](http://www.wnyalf.org)

The WNY Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, includes five Central Labor Councils (CLCs): Buffalo/Erie County; Cattaraugus/Allegany Dunkirk; Jamestown; Niagara/Orleans. Our mission is to improve the lives of and increase the power for working families, bring fairness and dignity to the workplace and secure social equality. We are working to build strong, diverse, free, and democratic labor movement in order to give a political voice to workers in our area. We fight for a public policy agenda at all levels of government, which benefits all working families, both union and non-union. We are active in our community and strive to create a broad progressive coalition for social and economic justice.

***2016 Summer Fellowship Project for a student dedicated to expanding rights and opportunities for low-wage and vulnerable workers.***

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### **Young Audiences of WNY**

1 Lafayette Square  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.881.0917

[www.yawny.org](http://www.yawny.org)

Young Audiences is a dynamic and growing provider of arts learning opportunities, providing services within eight counties of Western New York. Its mission is to make the visual, performing, and literary arts a part of young people's lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. Over the years, Young Audiences has demonstrated expertise in helping young people develop the essential skills—from collaborative engagement and leadership to critical thinking and communication—necessary for the 21st century workplace.

***2016 Summer Fellowship Project for someone interested in arts education and workforce development.***



## The High Road Runs Through the City . . .from Ithaca to Buffalo

**The City:** Buffalo is the ideal location for this “ILR in the real world” experience. An historic powerhouse of industry, transportation and culture, this Queen City of the Lakes is rediscovering and redeploying its assets to recover from sprawl without growth, income stagnation and inequality. Lacking corporate headquarters or wealth-spreading patrons, the **residents of this blue-collar town are reinventing and reconstructing the local economy from the ground up.** Neighborhood business districts are beginning to rebound on all sides of the city. Unions have joined community and social justice activists to attack the causes of poverty. The social networks that support the city’s **extraordinary architectural and cultural assets** earn Buffalo first place as an arts destination among mid-sized American cities. Its **natural assets and legacy of industrial innovation form the basis for developing sustainable energy enterprises, green jobs and a restoration economy.** It would be hard to find a better place for students to study firsthand the challenges of poverty, the economic impact of state and local government policies, the promise of new state and national investment and intervention, the evolving reality of labor-management relations, and the innovative role of nonprofit organizations. Buffalo serves up a banquet for students hungry for progressive work and career exploration.

*I am loving Buffalo. I think I liked it the second I got off the plane on Sunday morning. It’s flat (totally bikable), there’s always a lovely breeze, aaaannndd the food is AMAZING. Oh, and there is Canada too. . . One thing that Buffalo has confirmed is my belief in the good hard work of people who care for other people.*

Derya Akbaba, 2011 High Road Fellow

*My time on the High Road has been spent doing a lot of observing and reflecting on what I see in my work and in the community. I feel challenged to work towards social justice and a better, more equitable world. Some of my experiences have reinvigorated my desire to continue towards a career in law and politics with the goal of creating a more equal America.*

Gabrielle Hickmon, 2013 High Road Fellow

This fellowship program is designed to **give students a real feel for a great, exciting, struggling city and let them become involved** in a variety of ways – through immersion in the reality of poverty, through participation in the city’s hip arts scene. By experience, they learn about things that are going right in local development, as well as things that are not. Students

from the Buffalo area get a new view of their hometown, while newcomers take an urban adventure. Affordable group housing options are available for students not from the area.

**The Buffalo office of Cornell ILR** has a rich sixty-year history in the region. It has been at the center of strategies to build labor-management collaboration for good jobs and productivity at both the workplace and community level, to promote high road economic development policies, and to bridge the union-nonunion divide through efforts such as living wage campaigns, the provision of affordable child care, and worker rights programs. Its faculty and staff have not only played leading roles in promoting mutual interests in these arenas, they also have extensive and valuable networks with business, union, education, government, and community organizations. High Road Fellows meet in the Buffalo ILR office, a hub of diverse activities that is also home to the economists of the regional office of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Partnership for the Public Good, the Coalition for Economic Justice, and Open Buffalo.

*This fellowship has been life changing. It has changed my perspective on many aspects of life and I hope I can find work like it in the future. . . Week in Reviews were awesome – to hear what all of the other Fellows were doing and to see how all of our work was linked under a common goal.*

Jeffrey Baker, 2011 High Road Fellow

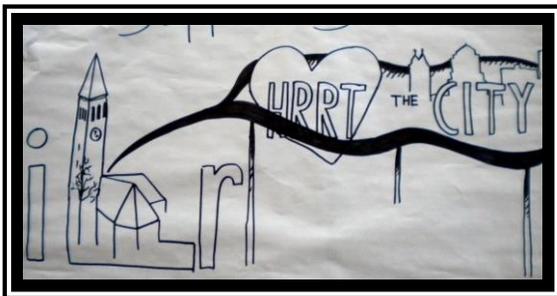
**Many ILR courses** are applicable to this fellowship program: Ron Applegate, *Governing Economic Development: The U.S. Experience*; Joe Grasso, *Non-profit Finance and Management*; Ron Applegate, Rose Batt, Sarosh Kuruvilla, *Work, Labor and Capital in the Global Economy*; Lance Compa, *Corporate Social Responsibility*; Diane Burton, *Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurial Organizations*; among others. Additional **ILR faculty research interests** are relevant, including those of Matt Freedman, Marya Basharov, and others.

**Faculty sponsors** for High Road Summer Fellowships:

- **Lou Jean Fleron**, now ILR emeritus, directs the High Road Fellowships. A Cornell ILR Extension faculty member since 1977, her research and teaching areas are public economic policy, industry and community development, and labor management relations. She served as director of ILR Western Region and is the author of studies on regional economic development, including *Champions @ Work: Employment, Workplace Practices and Labor-Management Relations in Western New York*, and *Buffalo Child Care Means Business*. Prior to working at ILR, she taught political science at SUNY Buffalo and the University of Kentucky. Lou Jean was chair of Buffalo Living Wage Commission 2003-2010 and is currently co-director of the Partnership for the Public Good.  
**Contact: [ljf8@cornell.edu](mailto:ljf8@cornell.edu); 716.852.4191 X 118.**
- **Sam Magavern**, adjunct faculty of Cornell ILR, also teaches at the University at Buffalo Law School. He joined the clinical law faculty in 2007 after a year as compliance coordinator for the City of Buffalo Living Wage Commission. His classes focus on the policy aspects of affordable housing and community economic development and offer students experience in action-oriented research and policy advocacy. He practiced for twelve years with the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, specializing in housing litigation, community legal education, and public policy advocacy. Sam is currently co-director of the Partnership for the Public Good. He grew up in Buffalo and graduated from Harvard College and UCLA Law School. When not teaching, he writes fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.  
**Contact: [magavern@gmail.com](mailto:magavern@gmail.com); 716.852.4191 X 117.**
- **Ron Applegate**, economic and labor historian, is a lecturer at Cornell ILR in the department of labor relations, law and history. Previously, he devoted two decades to community and labor organizing. He also coordinated community-based economic development programs for Over-the-Rhine Housing Network in Cincinnati, Ohio and Coalition for a Better Acre in Lowell, Massachusetts. His current teaching and research on the history of U.S. political economy focuses on collective action to increase public control over economic development.  
**Contact: [ra40@cornell.edu](mailto:ra40@cornell.edu); 607.255.1139.**
- **Megan Connelly** serves a dual role as the associate director for the High Road Fellowships as well as director of policy advancement for the Partnership for the Public Good. Megan is a graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School. She previously worked at Neighborhood Legal Services on the Homeless Task Force in Buffalo, at the Youth Justice Project in South Bend, Indiana, and for the University at Buffalo's Office of Civic Engagement and the Regional Institute. She believes that her own service experiences as an undergraduate at the University of Notre Dame helped to shape her values, interests and ultimately, her career path and would like to provide similar transformative opportunities for students to engage with and learn from the community.  
**Contact: [mlc322@cornell.edu](mailto:mlc322@cornell.edu); 716.852.4191 X 110.**

*So here's to Buffalo, to my final journal entry, to my final night in the NetZero house, to a crazy work project that was crazy successful, to all the support from Lou Jean and Megan, to my elderly swimming ladies at the JCC, to eating cinnamon rolls at Five Points. Here's to Buffalo, the little (big) city that has captured my life and my heart this summer.*

*Andrea Thomas, 2011 High Road*



**Drawing by High Road Fellows 2011**

**For more information about 2014 projects,  
the process of application and selection,  
housing information, or  
contact information for previous High Road Fellows,  
please call or write:  
Lou Jean Fleron or Megan Connelly**