

The logo is a large circle divided horizontally into two halves. The top half is yellow and the bottom half is dark blue. The text is centered within the circle. A thin black horizontal line is positioned above the top text, and a thin white horizontal line is positioned below the bottom text.

**UNIVERSITY OF
PITTSBURGH SCHOOL
OF SOCIAL WORK**

**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
FELLOWS**

2021-2022

Thank you to the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, Research for Equity and Power, Hazelwood Initiative, Macedonia FACE, and Homewood Children's Village for financial support of the 2021-2022 fellows.

Community Engagement Fellowship Field Sites



- **Antonetta Avila** - Hazelwood Initiative
- **Anna Brilliant** - Bible Center Church
- **Jaycee Brown** - Homewood Community Engagement Center
- **Isabella Colletti** – Operation Better Block
- **Chandler Dangerfield** – Homewood Children's Village
- **Andre Green** – Research for Equity and Power
- **Breanna Wallbaum** - Macedonia FACE
- **Kelsey Wiley** - Homewood Community Engagement Center
- **Carillon Young** – University of Pittsburgh, Engagement And Community Affairs

The Fellows

Antonetta Avila



Antonetta Avila (she/her) is originally from Southeast, Michigan. She obtained her BSW from Eastern Michigan University. While there she participated in EMU's Engage Program as an intern, which focused on community engagement through placements within school and affordable housing settings. Antonetta took some time to travel prior to relocating to Pittsburgh and ultimately beginning the MSW program at Pitt within its COSA concentration.

Antonetta volunteered at Growing Hope, a nonprofit in Ypsilanti, MI focused on urban farming initiatives. While Antonetta has always been passionate about environmental issues, her time at Growing Hope ignited her interest in sustainability, specifically within the realms of agriculture and infrastructure, and their socioeconomic impact on marginalized communities as climate patterns continue to evolve. She is interested in policies that pertain to the intersection of Social Work & Environmentalism and how to cultivate policy reform through grassroots efforts.

As a fellow at Hazelwood Initiative, Antonetta is eager to gain experience in developing meaningful connections with community members to learn from and serve within a social work capacity.

The Fellows

Anna Brilliant



Anna Brilliant is a first year generalist student pursuing her Masters of Social Work with a focus on Community Organizing and Social Action at the University of Pittsburgh. Anna grew up in New Jersey and graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. After graduation Anna worked at Boston Children's Hospital as a research coordinator where she had the opportunity to be an author on several published papers and present her research at regional and national conferences.

Anna has volunteered and worked with the housing insecure population for nearly 10 years with multiple organizations in both New Jersey and Boston. These experiences led her to become a Social Change Fellow in Israel where she participated in a nine month service-learning program, with a focus on community engagement. Upon returning to New Jersey, Anna worked at Covenant House New Jersey, a youth shelter, as a primary youth advisor. There she organized and implemented holiday activities, physical fitness classes, voter registration events and facilitated a social justice class, giving the youth a space to talk about the social issues that directly impact them. She hopes to use her experience in research and social work to find preventative and intervention programs to address social justice issues, including mental health, criminal justice reform and housing insecurity.

The Fellows

Jaycee Brown



Jaycee Brown, a native of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, is an Advanced Standing COSA student. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Mississippi as a first-gen student. During her undergraduate career, she was a Mississippi Votes Democracy in Action Fellow where she advocated for voting rights and increased student civic engagement. She also served as a senator in student government and found her passion for community engagement through her experiences with various local non-profits.

Jaycee will be completing her internship at the Community Engagement Center in Homewood. After graduating, she hopes to continue to mobilize communities and groups through organizing, policy advocacy, and research. Her main areas of interest are voting rights and racial justice. Eventually, she hopes to pursue her PhD in social work.

The Fellows

Isabella Colletti



Isabella Colletti is a returning Community Engagement Fellow and Community, Organization, and Social Action (COSA) Master of Social Work student at the University of Pittsburgh. She is also a COSA Representative on the School of Social Work's Student Executive Council.

Isabella was raised in Manchester, Connecticut and is a Salve Regina University Class of 2019 alumna. She obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in healthcare administration and management through a specialized lens of social issues and responsible citizenship. Her academic and extracurricular background encouraged an interest in service, leading her to join the National Health Corps of Philadelphia 2019 to 2020 cohort. Her role included providing health education to students and resource connections for them and their caregivers. She is also a former core team member of the National Trauma Campaign. This past year, she has also taken on research positions as a Data Collector with Pittsburgh Hill/Homewood Research on Neighborhood Change and Health (PHRESH) and as a Graduate Research Assistant.

Following graduation, Isabella hopes to find a role in local government, advocacy, or community relations that utilizes her community engagement and empowerment skills.

The Fellows

Chandler Dangerfield



Originally from West Philadelphia -- second year, MSW student Chandler Dangerfield now calls Pittsburgh home. Chandler's professional experience includes a unique mix of community engagement and customer service. During the 2020-2021 academic school year, Chandler served as a Resident Engagement Facilitator at the University of Pittsburgh's Community Engagement Center in Homewood.

She also had the pleasure to be a member of the Community Engagement Fellowship. Chandler will be returning as a CE Fellow for the 2021-2022 academic school year and will be joining Homewood Children's Village Office of Research and Evaluation for her specialized field placement. Chandler is passionate about social justice, holistic well-being, and creating, protecting, and preserving safe and inclusive spaces for BIPOC communities, particularly Black women. With a focus on Community Organizing and Social Action, Chandler's professional interests lie in social science research and community relations.

The Fellows

Andre Green



Andre Green is a full-time Advanced Standing student obtaining his Master of Social Work with a specialization in Community Organization and Social Action at the University of Pittsburgh. As a native of Kentucky, he received his Bachelor of Social Work at Western Kentucky University in May 2021. During his undergraduate career, Andre interned with United Way of Southern Kentucky. While placed at this nonprofit, he worked with community impact funding, the 2-1-1 call center, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. From this experience, his passion for macro work, law, and policy were solidified. Andre is also involved with the Crohn's and Colitis Young Adults Network where he does advocacy work for the chronic illness community.

As a member of the Community Engagement Fellowship, Andre will be interning with the Research for Equity and Power project where he will be working with Homewood residents to help strengthen their sense of community and empower them to influence change in their neighborhood. Helping to facilitate community change will be a worthwhile opportunity to help him gain more experience with community organizing, research, equity, and understanding capacity. As a fervent believer that change starts from the top, Andre will utilize every resource at his disposal to be a positive change agent in the community.

The Fellows

Breanna Wallbaum



Breanna Wallbaum received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. Upon graduating, she entered the workforce as a research specialist developing a behavioral treatment program for pregnant women. At seeing the disparities in available resources, she decided to return to graduate school to obtain her Masters in Social Work with a COSA concentration as well as her Masters in Business.

Already in her second year, Breanna remains passionate about helping communities build upon their resources and hopes to do so working with Macedonia FACE. Upon graduating, she hopes to utilize her intimate business knowledge within the world of non-profits to help lessen some of the financial burdens hindering non-profits from helping as many people as they can.

The Fellows

Kelsey Wiley



Kelsey Wiley is a full-time Advanced Standing student obtaining the Community Organizing and Social Action concentration along with the Human Services Management certificate at the University of Pittsburgh. Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, Kelsey left her hometown to obtain her Bachelor of Social Work at James Madison University in Virginia and graduated in May 2021. During her final semester at her undergraduate program, she interned with a local Healthy Families program and got the opportunity to learn more about grant writing, policy changing, and what it looks like and truly means to work with a community.

Through her internship experience, she realized how much appreciation she has for working with communities and fully immersing oneself into community work to best understand what individuals want and need as a whole for success. Kelsey is extremely passionate about utilizing her voice to contribute to fight for social and racial justice, and is very interested in the criminal justice system. She is also very passionate about working with children and families in communities to help children reach their fullest potential possible.

Kelsey is completing her field placement at the Homewood Community Engagement Center.

The Fellows

Carillon Young



Carillon Young, an Ohio native, completed her undergraduate studies at Bowling Green State University in 2019. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication, with an individualized minor in Human Ethnic, Gender and Developmental Studies. During her undergraduate career, Carillon completed research as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, authoring a study investigating the food sufficiency of American households and its effects on the overall development and well-being of children. In addition, she served as the Community Engagement Chair on the executive board of the National Council of Negro Women Inc. at BGSU.

Prior to attending graduate school, Carillon worked as a community outreach specialist with the Lucas County Family Council for the Help Me Grow program. In this position she coordinated local and multi-county events to provide information and services on early prenatal and well-baby care, parent education, and early intervention to families within under-resourced communities. Carillon is now a second year MSW student on the COSA concentration track, pursuing a certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. Carillon is in her second year with the Community Engagement Fellowship. During her first year she interned with The Oasis Project at Bible Center Church and she is currently interning with the Office of Engagement and Community Affairs.