

Bridging the Gaps



Mercy Neighborhood Ministries: Outreach through the Lifespan

Student Interns

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Academic Preceptor

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Community Preceptors

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COMMUNITY PARTNER

We worked with Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, which is located in North Philadelphia. Mercy serves the whole community, with services for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults. Examples of services include Head Start, work readiness programs, and an adult day program. Their mission is to help the underserved individuals in the community and fight the cycle of poverty. <https://mercyneighbors.org/>

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

According to <https://mercyneighbors.org/who-we-are/mission-history/>, 46% of those in North Philadelphia experience poverty. Mercy Neighborhood Ministries provides jobs in the community of North Philadelphia, where only 11% of the residents work in their community. In North Philadelphia, only 2% of the population has a four year college degree. Mercy is working to break this cycle by providing a place where children are encouraged to stay in school and stay on a good path.

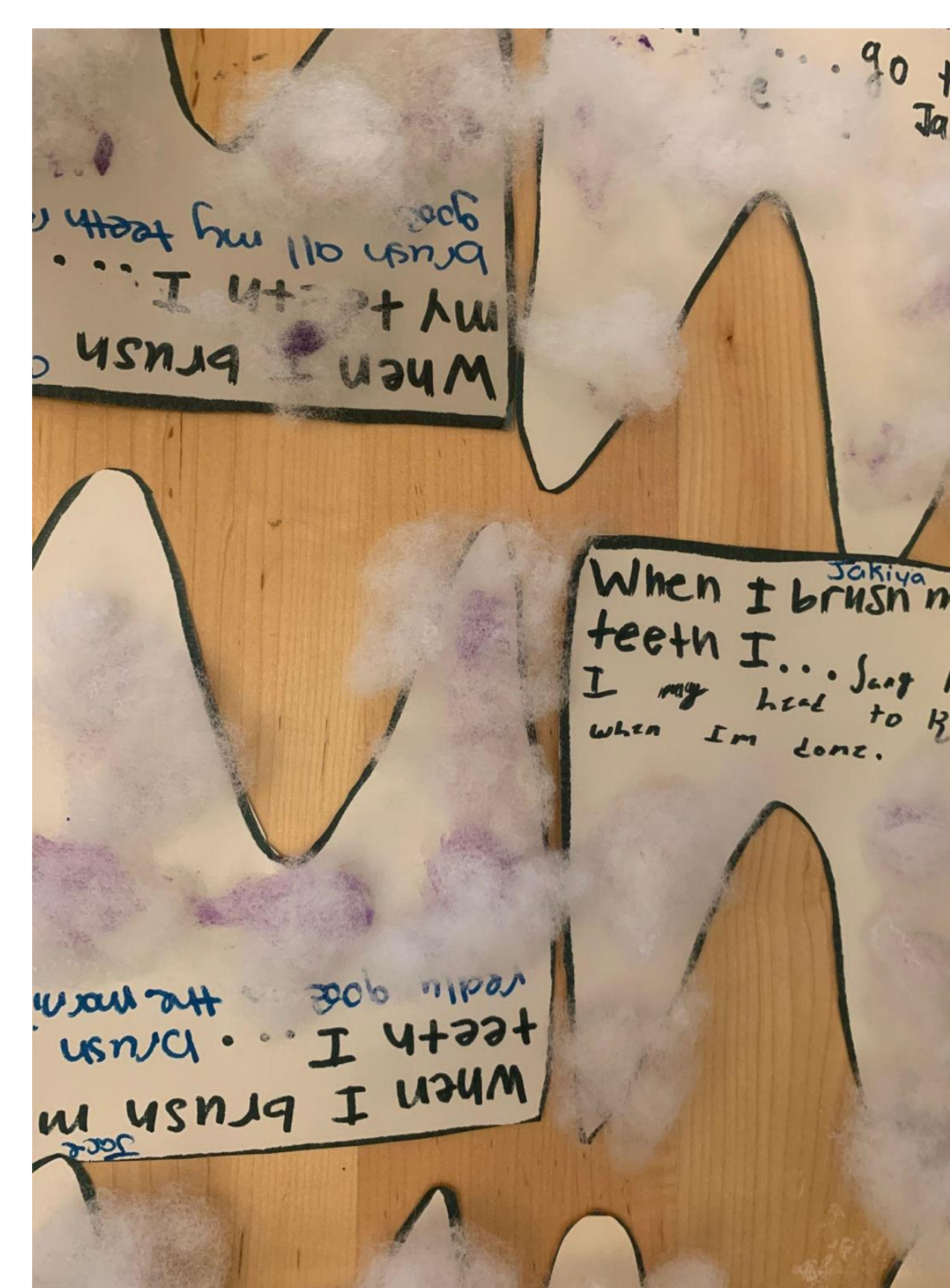
TEAM'S EXPERIENCES

This summer, we worked both in the adult day program and the summer camp. We worked both with older adults and young children. With the older adults we focused on providing activities that stimulated the mind and excited the participants in the program. This consisted of puzzles, games, and clay art projects. In the summer camp program, we each assisted in a classroom and helped facilitate daily activities. This consisted of handwriting lessons, playtime, exercise, reading, and sometimes field trips around the community. Additionally, we both developed programs to teach the campers in our classes about oral health.

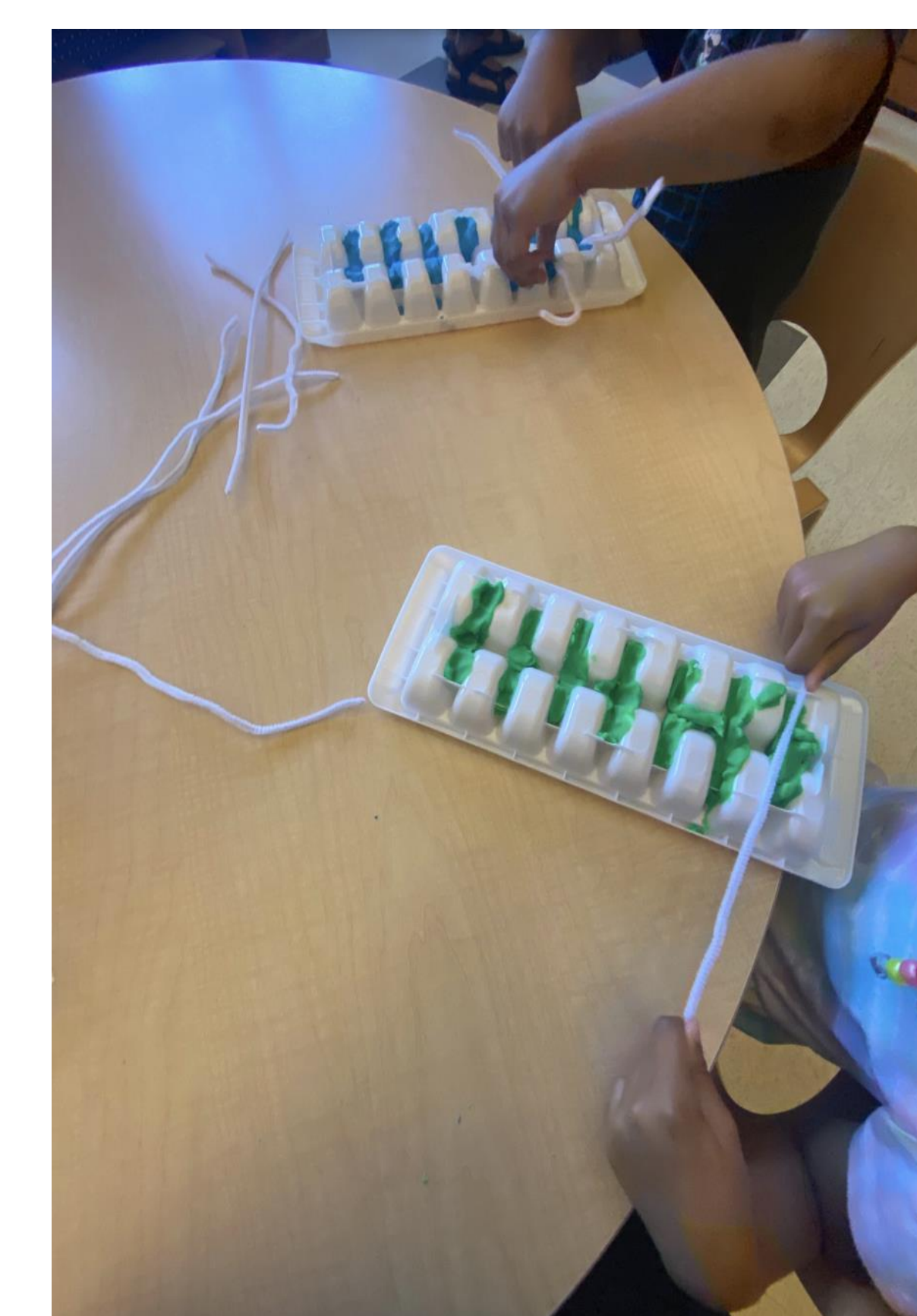


Learning about brushing teeth!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CHALLENGES/ JOYS



Sharing brushing habits!



Practicing proper flossing technique!

REFLECTION

Angela Deibler and Chloe Fish: Overall, we learned about and experienced so much from working with populations of all different ages. One of the most impactful parts of this internship was when we interviewed a Mercy employee about her experience working in the community. The interview revealed that she loves her community, and people often underestimate its resources. She revealed that there are many beneficial resources available in the community around Mercy, from rental assistant programs to stress testing. We are so grateful to have had this opportunity to provide outreach throughout the lifespan!