

Bridging the Gaps



MORAVIAN
UNIVERSITY



Alliance Hall and Casa Guadalupe: Building a Better Future for Allentown's Youth

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Community Preceptors:

- **Alliance Hall Summer Recreation Program:** Tina Amato, MS, LDN, RD, Nutrition and Physical Activity Manager for Allentown Health Bureau
- **Casa Guadalupe:** Andrea Wilson, Director of Education, DHSc, MEd

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Alliance Hall Summer Program

Alliance Hall is a summer recreation program that is a collaborative effort of several organizations to provide a safe and fun summer experience for children in center city Allentown. The program held at Central Elementary School located free for children's ages seven to thirteen to drop-in. The program provides activities to promote fun, creativity, and learning. Activities include arts and crafts, playing games, playground time, swimming, and presentations from Wildlands Conservancy and the Allentown Fire Department.

https://www.allentownpa.gov/Portals/0/files/Health/2023SummerRegPkt_%20ENG.pdf?%E2%80%8B

Casa Guadalupe

Casa Guadalupe's summer program is a 21st-century, federally funded educational experience for children from Kindergarten to 12th grade. The program integrates foundations of STEAM, literacy, partner-learning, and physical activity throughout seven weeks of summer. In addition to the summer learning program, Casa Guadalupe offers assistance with WIC, free meals for children and the elderly, social events for senior citizens, assistance with rent and mortgage payment, and after school tutoring/daycare during the school year.

<https://casalv.org/>



TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

Alliance Hall

- Monitored children during arts and crafts, at Mack pool, and during playground time
- Assisted during mealtimes
- Created age-appropriate lessons on cardiovascular health, such as learning how to listen to their heart with a stethoscope
- Attended staff meetings to exchange feedback about various situations
- Provided minor first aid

Casa Guadalupe

- Assisted lead teachers create lesson plans for the Around the World in 24 Days theme
- Assisted staff with classroom management
- Engaged in arts/crafts activities, physical education, and STEM and literacy activities with students
- Provided engaging lessons about oral health, cardiovascular health, and smoking cessation to the students
- Interviewed staff for the narrative medicine projects
- Attended staff meetings to help prepare for weekly activities

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

- In Allentown, persons <18 years of age comprise 25.7% of the population; for the ages 25 and older, 80.6% have a high school diploma or equivalent and 17.3% have a bachelor's degree or higher. The Median Household Income is \$17, 703 and Persons in Poverty are 23.3% (US Census Bureau Quick Facts, 2022 at: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/allentowncitypennsylvania/PST045222>).
- Both Alliance Hall and Casa Guadalupe are one of the many programs in Allentown offering educational and recreational resources for children.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CHALLENGES/ LESSONS LEARNED

- Taught lessons on cardiovascular health which included hands-only CPR
- Taught oral health and smoking cessation lessons with distribution of dental kits to children and seniors
- Created brochures for health-related disease processes
- Traveling from sites proved to be a challenge to balance work at each site
- Classroom management proved to be challenging at times
- Creating genuine connections with students and getting to know each unique personality



REFLECTIONS

Alliance Hall Summer Program

"The BTG interns at Alliance Hall learned how to manage several different age groups of children. They also connected how the social determinants of health affect the children of the camp. Alliance Hall is a great program for youth of Allentown to escape from any stress or struggles they face at home."

Casa Guadalupe

"The interns of BTG learned how to professionally collaborate with other interprofessional staff. They also learned how to relate and engage with young groups of children varying from Kindergarten through High School. Additionally, they learned how to coordinate lesson plans and keep children engaged with learning."

"This internship expanded my knowledge on the Allentown Community. This was my first time being in a K-12 learning environment. It was a great experience getting to bond with each student and form a lifetime memory they can look back on"- Angelina Nehme, S.N., Moravian University