

Intern Spotlight

Meet Nimit Kaur

In a cover letter applying for an internship at YCS, Nimit Kaur wrote, “Although I am blind... I am deeply passionate about [helping] individuals from various backgrounds and abilities and helping them thrive and reach their full potential.” With courageous honesty she continued, “I will communicate with you clearly and openly if I have any limitations and concerns that might interfere with the goals of the program. I want to provide the best care to the clients and youth...”

True to her word, the Rutgers University graduate student met every challenge she faced to fulfill all work related requirements and began her internship last fall at Haddon Heights and Voorhees homes. With her trusted canine companion Chardonnay by her side, Nimit has been working two days a week at each site - conducting individual and group therapy sessions for the residents.

“Nimit is one of the most motivated students that I’ve ever interviewed for an internship... She was not going to let any obstacles stand in her way,” said Laurie Levin, YCS senior project manager.

Sonja Stang, Haddon Heights clinician added in an email, “Nimit and Chardonnay have been such a light at Haddon Heights since they arrived on site. Nimit’s professionalism and adaptability to the challenging residential environment has been an amazing inspiration to staff and clients alike... we’ve all grown in our abilities to understand each other and appreciate differences.”

Nimit hopes that she has been able to encourage the youth to fight for their own happiness. “I told them that their issues do not define them... They are defined by their individuality and abilities.”

When she was 11, Nimit’s family emigrated from India. She was thrust into an unfamiliar culture and did not know English. “I think I am proof for the children that if I can be successful so can they.”

“Nimit has been a wonderful addition to the Voorhees team,” said Shannon Casserly, clinician. “Her compassion and genuine nature have helped her build rapport with even the most resistant of clients.”

According to Nimit, there is a direct correlation between physical and mental health challenges because in both instances the world isolates people with disabilities. Working with the youth at YCS has strengthened her commitment to pursue a career in advocacy for individuals with disabilities. “Helping agencies need better ways to set people with challenges up for success,” urged Nimit.

