

## Summer Jobs Make a Real Difference for Young People

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A summer job for a teen or young adult offers valuable work experience and income, but jobs can be hard to come by. Thanks to the advocacy of UJA-Federation of New York's Government Relations team, five nonprofits in UJA-Federation's network placed more than 3,000 city young people, from ages 14 to 24, at paying jobs for up to six weeks this summer.



*Ashley Moguel found a summer job in a New York City government site.*

The five nonprofits, which received funding from the New York City Council through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are **Central Queens YM & YWHA**, Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush, Edith and Carl Marks Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst, Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, and YM & YWHA of Washington Heights & Inwood. The jobs are in a variety of settings, from government agencies and nonprofits to small businesses. In addition, several other UJA-Federation beneficiary agencies are serving as SYEP worksites.

"I'm being taught step by step, and I really like that everything has been hands-on since the first day," said Ashley Moguel, 19, who worked at the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Manhattan.

Moguel, born in Belize, is a Forest Hills High School graduate currently studying nursing at a Manhattan training program. She said she hopes to become a nurse practitioner, earn her doctorate in nursing, and travel to different countries to provide medical aid through a humanitarian organization. "I come from a third-world country and know what it's like to not have access to a hospital," Moguel said. This summer work experience is one more step toward building her career.

For Tina Palacios, 18, who will be a high school senior in the Bronx this fall, the chance to work at the accounting office of Mosholu Montefiore helped her improve her organizational skills.

"Every kid should take advantage of summer employment because summer jobs help you learn about the workplace and become independent," said Palacios, who plans to attend college and study child development.

Part of SYEP is NYC Ladders for Leaders, for young people ages 16 to 21. Ladders for Leaders offers access to professional internships and provides 30 hours of pre-employment training for workplace-readiness skills.



*Tina Palacios improved her organizational skills by working at a summer job.*

Maria Loginova, 20, who will be a junior studying finance at Baruch College this fall, participated in the Ladders for Leaders program through the **Central Queens Y**. She was placed at a furniture dealership as a project management intern.



*Maria Loginova received pre-employment training in the Ladders for Leaders program.*

In that role she performed high-level analysis and helped generate pricing. Loginova, who aspires to work in an area related to finance or technology, said, "I enjoyed the responsibility and it gave me good exposure to the kind of business pursuits I would like to do."