



January 18, 2018

Across the Pond
170 S. Green Valley Parkway
Henderson, NV 89012

To Whom It May Concern,

"Connie" Adamson has volunteered with our organization, at a shelter for families experiencing homelessness, since September 2017. From now until March 2018, Connie is expected to intern 5 hours each week within our organization. Her expressed goal is to understand "issues [clients face] within the public system" of housing.

I recommend Connie for graduate study on the basis of her motivation to research how populations create and maintain their individual and collective identities.

In her internship, Connie plans (i) to conduct interviews with our clients, volunteers, and staff, and (ii) situate these interviews within global perspectives of homelessness. I believe Connie will succeed in characterizing the historical and geographic antecedents to our staff and clients' beliefs about themselves. With these characterizations, I expect Connie to analyze both how families see themselves and how the community "narrates" their experiences.

Connie is an informed volunteer, eager to relate theory to practice. I believe only 1 in 20 folks in social services share Connie's philosophical disposition. To challenge Connie, I have asked Connie to survey zine literature on radical parenting¹ I hope that Connie proceeds to challenge the stigma that social reproduction is inherently unpunk or unacademic. I believe Connie would benefit from seeing how critical arguments can be applied for a community's welfare. I have often joked with Connie that, working with survivors of trauma, cultivating child-like spontaneity is "applied philosophy."

In terms of skills relevant to research in Anthropology, while working at our shelter Connie has learned: how to build rapport with community members; how to de-escalate conflicts while remaining impartial; how to engage with families of various demographic backgrounds; and how private foundations, non-profits, and public agencies provide a social safety-net in the Northwest United States.

I believe Connie's insight from volunteering and interning at the Family Support Center prepares her formidably for graduate study in Anthropology. I reiterate that Connie would benefit from seeing how critical theory can be applied for a community's welfare. Given her interdisciplinary background, I have no doubt that she will exert an enthusiastic and sustained effort in her graduate work.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colton Grainger".

Colton Grainger
Community Engagement Specialist
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"working together to strengthen all families"

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¹C. Martens, *The Future Generation*. Atomic Book Company: Baltimore, MD (2007).