

MANN CHILD POLICY EXTERN **Kelly Kanya** A senior majoring in psychology and minoring in childhood studies, anthropology, and sociology, Kelly Kanya plans on pursuing a career in the field of social work. Kelly became interested in pursuing a Mann Child Policy Externship after taking the Child Policy courses offered through the Schubert Center for Child Studies. The class sparked her interest in policy, and she wanted to explore policy work through a hands-on learning experience. Kelly applied and was selected to complete a Mann Child Policy Externship in the summer of 2009. She was placed at the Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau, a social service agency where she was able to see the role that policy plays in the field of social work and learn about important policy issues affecting youth.



Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau ("Bellefaire") is a social service agency that aims to provide local children, youth, and families with access to a variety of services to help promote family health and well being. Kelly's externship focused primarily on the issue of underage drinking. Through her research, she learned about the many negative societal impacts and the policy issues surrounding underage drinking. As part of her externship, Kelly had the chance to work directly with youth as well as with practitioners and policy makers. She was given the opportunity to work on policy initiatives and engage in advocacy efforts which helped to bridge her understanding of policy and real life consequences. Kelly began her externship by working with high school students and by teaching them about policy and advocacy regarding underage drinking. As the externship progressed, she became involved with Bellefaire's initiative to amend Ohio's Social Host Law. Her work at Bellefaire allowed her to understand how underage drinking affects youth as well as the larger society, and to understand the role that policy can play in addressing this issue.

POLICY RESEARCH: UNDERAGE DRINKING

Underage drinking is a rising concern in our nation. A recent survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration ("SAMHSA") found that nearly half of the nation's high school students report drinking in the last month; this number is more than double what it was in the late 1990's.¹ Underage drinking has many negative consequences for our nation's youth. Alcohol is a factor in nearly half of all teen automobile accidents,

