



Student Spotlight: Jessica Manning

Jessica is one of our U4C students from Northwestern and working as an intern at St. Paul's. She first heard about the U4C program from Natalie Bullis, another U4C student, when Natalie kept talking to her in their Community and Culture class about the program. At the time, Jessica was majoring in Elementary Education so she thought the U4C program was not for her. Last March, Jessica went to San Diego on a mission's trip thinking that it would be beautiful and relaxing to be by the beach. Instead, she ended up working in the inner city of San Diego and there she realized how much she enjoyed working with people from different cultures. Jessica grew up in Brooklyn Center and knew there were people of other cultures around her, but did not connect with them. After her trip to San Diego, she decided to switch her major to Children and Family Ministry. Trying to incorporate the cultural aspect, she started thinking about the U4C program and discussed it with former students Heidi and Bex. When Kari, U4C's former program director, spoke in Jessica's Introduction to Ministry class she felt God telling her to go. She is thinking of starting a branch of World Impact here in the Twin Cities, so her favorite classes are those which show her how to build a non-profit. Jessica loved the different speakers in the *MissionShift* class and feels that they have opened her eyes to see that people are not defined by their struggles such as addiction, homosexuality, and prostitution. She stated that the "Faces in the Crowd" book taught her to pray for opportunities to connect with people and share a "hello" or a smile. Through *MissionShift* and her other U4C classes Jessica has learned that there are "real cities, with real people, who have real issues, and who are in need of a real savior."