Natasha Strauss  
*Regional Recruitment Manager*  
*City Year*

**Education Background:** UCI with a Bachelors in Anthropology and a minor in Political Science (2011)

**Current Job Tasks:**
In my role at City Year, I wear a variety of hats. The core of my role is to build relationships at the 5 schools I recruit at with Staff and Faculty as well as potential and current applicants. While on the campuses, I attend career fairs, host workshops, and coach and advise applicants. Additionally, since City Year is a program that is committed to supporting the growth and development of all its members, I take on a second role in which I mentor and train currently serving AmeriCorps Members.

**Favorite Thing About Their Job:**
The best thing about my job is the culture and community that we have at City Year. I can really like the individual role that I am doing if I did it anywhere, but the people I have the opportunity to work with and the workplace values and ethics is what makes it a place I wouldn't want to leave.

**Piece of Advice:**
If you are thinking about entering into a non-profit role, I would really consider what moves you, or as we say in City Year, what gets you fired up! In my experience, it is important to be wholeheartedly committed to the work you are doing and the service you are providing to the communities and peoples around you!

Tina Rodgers  
*Peer Mentor*  
*Orangewood Foundation*

**Education Background:** California State University, Fullerton—Bachelors of Science in Human Service, emphasis in Mental Health & Substance Abuse

**Current Job Tasks:**
I create curriculum around education, career exploration/development, healthy relationships and daily living; conduct independent living workshops for current/former foster/probation youth collaborate with county and community partners; familiarize with local and state law and regulations regarding foster youth support and initiatives; and collaborate with sister departments for referrals.

**Favorite Thing About Their Job:**
Foster youth/probation are some of the most resilient, determined adolescents to work with and frequently teach me new things every day.

**Piece of Advice:**
Self-care is essential for longevity and maximizing the impact in our work. To be authentic in our approach and where we are in what we are willing to do and able to do. Build a small support system/network within your department.
Jaclyn Wright

Victim Advocate
Community Service Programs (CSP), Inc./UCI Campus Assault Resources and Education (CARE)

Education Background:
University of North Carolina Wilmington—Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
University of North Carolina at Charlotte—Master of Social Work

Current Job Tasks:
I provide resources, options, referrals, safety planning, and emotional support for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking. I accompany survivors to forensic exams, police interviews, court, Title IX interviews, and Student Conduct Hearings. Since I work for both Community Service Programs and UC Irvine, I provide students with resources and options both on and off campus.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
I love witnessing the growth and resiliency students have despite having been in a very traumatic situation. I get to witness people coming out of their darkness. Also, it is amazing to see people accept their feelings in the moment; whether that is frustration, anxiety, sadness, or happiness. Witnessing people being raw with their feelings is amazing because sometimes it is easier to suppress or hide them.

Piece of Advice:
1. Self-care. It is so important to have a set of self-care activities that work great for you. Social work/human services can be a difficult at times. It is so important to take care of you!
2. Openness to continue learning. In this field, you will be challenged with your biases, insight, and who you want to be. It is important to be aware of your biases and learn how to set them aside when working with a client. It is also important to keep an open mind about learning. You will always learn new things whether it is about therapeutic techniques, biases, boundaries, insights, etc. It is important to constantly learn, understand (as much as you can), and grow so you can effectively support your clients to the best of your ability.

Shelley Profenius

HR & Talent Development Consultant
American Heart Association (AHA)

Education Background:
California State University, Long Beach with a degree in English Literature.

Current Job Tasks:
I recruit top talent for a number of key positions for the AHA in a 10-state territory. These can range from Fundraising, Health Strategies and Administrative/Operations, and I participate in the training of those staff.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
Being able to match the right person to a career that is focused on saving lives and making a difference. Regardless of the position, every staff member at the AHA is having an impact on the health and well-being of others. We are a great organization to work for, having been recognized by the NonProfit Times as One of the Best Non-Profits to Work six years in a row!

Piece of Advice:
Recognize that even though we are a nonprofit, and the work is fulfilling, it isn't easy. Talk to people who have similar positions and find opportunities to volunteer to get involved and find a cause that inspires their passion.
Noreen Rahman
Program Director
Girls Incorporated of Orange County

Education Background: University of California, Irvine—Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature
Minors: Criminology, Law and Society; Spanish
University of California, Irvine—Master of Arts in Social Science (DASA)

Current Job Tasks:
A little bit of everything—lead the research team for a longitudinal study, spearhead new database implementation, curricula development, agency program quality assurance, evaluation management, grant management: proposals from start to finish, oversee offsite programs at 40+ sites, build community partnerships, social enterprise, events (Girls Conference), and manage staff.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
Diversity of projects: I get to work on projects I created, projects led by a diverse and talented team of not only Girls Inc. staff but also teens, I get to meet with some really amazing people who are doing great things for Orange County, and I occasionally get to play a mean game of dodgeball.

Piece of Advice:
• Your major doesn't entirely matter during the job search, experience does—paid or unpaid. So volunteer, intern, etc. and treat them like extended interviews. It’s much more assuring to hire a tried and tested intern than an unknown applicant. Non-profit doesn’t mean non-professional. Although it’s traditionally considered “the helping field,” it’s easy to get too comfortable while at work/internship, especially if your colleagues are in your same age cohort.
• Know yourself… and others. Knowing if you’re more of an action-oriented person/doer while your boss is more of a detail-oriented person/thinker will ensure a smoother working relationship. Personality tests like Myers Briggs or Compass Point Leadership can help with that.
• Pay your dues. Your first job may not be THE job and it typically takes about 1 year to actually get the hang of your role and about 2 years to move up.
• Work beyond your job description. When it comes time to moving people up and around an organization, if you demonstrate the ability to think, act and succeed beyond the basic requirements of your job, your chances of upward mobility are much higher.