

How has the Clinic prepared you for life after AmeriCorps VISTA?

Prior to my AmeriCorps VISTA year, I knew I was interested in working with patients in my professional career. Now, after having the opportunity to get to know our providers, and learn about their career paths, I am beginning my journey of applying to medical school. I am incredibly lucky to work with providers who take the time to make our patients comfortable, and ask the right questions to make patient visits thorough and effective. I hope to one day serve as an advocate for patients, and provide well-rounded health care to those in my community, wherever my career takes me.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is having the ability to get to know so many people in our community, all with the common goal of serving Rhode Island in an important way. The RIFC staff, providers, and volunteers all have different backgrounds and interests, but share common altruistic qualities that bring us together to form a strong team of unique individuals. Together, this team provides comprehensive healthcare to our patients that need our help. I love learning about everyone's path, where they came from, where they are now, and where they are heading in the future.

What have you learned from your experience at Rhode Island Free Clinic?

Serving as a Volunteer Coordinator AmeriCorps VISTA has enhanced my problem-solving skills and made me fully understand what it means to be a team member, which I will absolutely carry with me throughout my career. At RIFC, especially during COVID, we have to work as a cohesive unit because there are days that at the last moment, we do not have a vital member of the team present due to unprecedented circumstances. Sometimes, I need to reorganize volunteer and staff roles to accomplish the most important tasks at hand, and at the end of the day, provide our patients the care they need. This brings us closer together, and allows us to appreciate and respect the work each team member contributes each day for the Clinic to operate.

SOPHIE SILVIA

*PATIENT & VOLUNTEER SERVICES
AMERICORPS VISTA*



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