

# JESSICA ANN MASON

**Silver School of Social Work  
Bachelor of Arts, May 2010  
Major: Social Work and History**



Jessica Ann Mason is pursuing a double major in Social Work and History. She aspires to challenge and reform policies to improve the lives of at-risk youth.

During her first year at NYU, Jessica volunteered with Peer Health Exchange, teaching health education to teens in underserved schools. While volunteering in schools, she found many students were curious about college, but lacked access to college resources. She decided to address this need by founding Undergraduate Pathways, a student-led organization to raise college awareness, build mentoring relationships, and promote service-learning. Through Peer Health Exchange and Undergraduate Pathways, she realized her immense passion for working with youth and improving services directed toward this population.

After her freshman year, Jessica worked for Walter R. McDonald & Associates (WRMA), a nationally recognized company that provides high-quality managerial and technical consulting in the education, juvenile justice and human services fields. She focused on a project to evaluate a variety of children's services in Sacramento. This experience was invaluable to Jessica because it allowed her to interact with and understand many different community organizations. She gained practical experience working in a team with leaders in many human service fields. She also witnessed how government and nonprofit organizations can interact to promote child welfare programming.

Jessica holds leadership roles as the President of the Silver School of Social Work Student Government and the director of the NYU Reynolds/ Youth Venture Chapter. In both organizations she works to create communities for those interested in social change. She is currently working as a Co-Director at Baby's First Home (BFH), a supportive housing project she co-founded for teen mothers in New York City. BFH was awarded the grand prize of \$10,000 in capital by the 2008 NYU Reynolds/Youth Venture "Be a Changemaker Challenge," and will open its first transitional living facility in 2009. Jessica's role as co-director constantly challenges her and reminds her of how important strong family units are to building stable lives and bright futures for youth.

Jessica is working with the Reciprocity Foundation in the summer of 2009. Reciprocity Foundation is a nonprofit that serves homeless and at-risk youth by connecting them to educational and career opportunities in creative industries like fashion, music, film, photography, and more. Jessica's work with the Reciprocity foundation will provide her with more experience in individualized practice as well as a broader foundation for operating an innovative nonprofit. In the 2009-2010 school year, she will continue her field placement at the Bellevue Hospital Crime Victims Program, where she works with victims of violent crimes and their families.

# Jessica Ann Mason

## **EDUCATION**

**New York University, Silver School of Social Work, New York, NY**

Candidate for Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts, May 2010

Majors: Social Work and History

## **AWARDS**

- NYU Reynolds Scholarship in Social Entrepreneurship, 2008-2010
- NYU History Department Honors Program
- NYU and Youth Venture Be a Changemaker Challenge, Grand Prize Winner, 2008
- New York University Trustee Scholarship, 2006-2010
- Award Winner for Excellence in Student Government, 2007
- New York University Dean's List: fall 2006, spring 2007, fall 2007
- Monte Vista High School Commencement Speaker, 2006
- Principal's Honor Roll, 2002-2006
- National Forensics League 'Excellence' Award, 2006
- Qualifier for Debate Tournament of Champions, 2006
- State Congressional Finalist for Golden Gate Speech Assoc., 2006
- History Department Award, 2005

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Bellevue Hospital Center Crime Victims Program, New York, NY**

**Social Work Intern, Jan. 2009 – Present**

- Counseling victims of violent crime
- Working with patients and families in crisis
- Assisting patients with crime victims entitlement counseling
- Advocating on behalf of victims and survivors for criminal justice
- Providing therapy and referral services to victims and family members

**The Reciprocity Foundation, New York, NY**

**Intern, May 2009 – Aug. 2009**

- Provided coaching and mentoring to homeless and at-risk youth ages
- Coordinated team of youth working on a documentary about youth homelessness with CW/Channel 11 news
- Organized mentor workshop series
- Piloted CreateConnect program to introduce youth to relevant cultural opportunities
- Assisted with general administrative duties

**Baby's First Home, New York, NY**

**Co-Director, Jan. 2008 – Present**

- Working with law firm to establish tax status and licensing for organization
- Researching innovative, affordable housing models and subsequently applying select models to new shelter
- Secure financing through fundraising, state funding, and grant writing
- Create and facilitate program to establish a residence for five homeless families headed by teen mothers, ages 16-20
- Work to raise awareness about teen mothers, homelessness, and affordable housing shortages

**Hillary for President, NY Campaign Headquarters, New York, NY**

**Intern, Sept. 2007 – Feb. 2008**

- Attended and planned "Ambassadors for Hillary" events and outreach to women voters
- Helped staff with grass roots campaigning targeting college communities

- Assisted staff with planning and implementation of fundraising events
- Organized volunteers in office

**Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc., Sacramento, CA**

**Research Assistant, May 2007 – Sept. 2007**

- Assisted evaluation team with research and communications on comprehensive child welfare evaluation
- Worked with over 20 service providers in extensive, qualitative evaluation of publicly funded First 5 California services for children ages zero to five
- Wrote and distributed monthly newsletter
- Coordinated and distributed consent forms in 5 different languages
- Investigated various tracking systems and applied a system to a longitudinal survey of parents
- Assisted in training of nearly 100 service providers in web-based tracking system

**Undergraduate Pathways, New York, NY**

**Director, Feb. 2007 – Dec. 2008**

- Director and founder of a college mentoring, and service learning program for underserved youth
- Worked with administration and staff at local public high schools to organize events for students
- Mentored students ages 14-18 about college and future options on a weekly basis
- Planned monthly events to promote leadership through service, college awareness, and peer mentoring
- Partnered with organization, College for Every Student (CFES), to complement staff programming with college mentors
- Managed and directed group of more than 30 volunteers

**Twenty One Tango, Danville, CA**

**Sales Associate, Feb. 2006 – Aug. 2006**

- Retail sales for clothing boutique
- Worked one on one with customers

**San Ramon Valley Unified School Dist., Danville, CA**

**Public Speaking Teacher, Summer 2004 and 2005**

- Instructed children ages 12-15 in the art of public speaking
- Taught two classes per day, for two sessions at the Monte Vista Speech and Debate Summer Institute
- Worked with students to improve speaking and writing skills and increase self-confidence

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**First STEP (Services to Empower Parents), New York, NY**

**Jan. 2009 – May 2009**

- Worked with team of volunteers in Bellevue Hospital
- Provided social service referrals to young mothers and their families

**American Cancer Society/Relay for Life, New York, NY**

**Team Captain, Dec. 2006 – Apr. 2007**

- Organized fundraising and participation for school team
- Planned team theme and managing group of volunteers
- Planned fundraising events

**Sanctuary for Families, New York, NY**

**Holiday Volunteer, Dec. 2007 and Dec. 2006**

- Organized goody bags and activities for children
- Worked one on one with children at holiday party

**Peer Health Exchange, New York, NY**  
**Health Educator, Sept. 2006 – May 2007**

- Taught health workshop on alcohol abuse to NYC high school freshman

**Lareen Fender's the Ballet School and the Ballet Joyeux, Walnut Creek, CA**  
**Ballet Instructor, Sept. 2003 – Apr. 2005**

- Taught ballet to children ages 5-12
- Assisted in auditions and workshops for company production

**ACTIVITIES**

**Social Work Undergraduate Student Government Association, New York, NY**  
**President, 2009 – 2010**

- Leading undergraduate social work student government
- Overseeing community service projects and social gatherings for School of Social Work
- Coordinating group of student leaders working to create community within the School of Social Work

**NYU Youth Venture Chapter, New York, NY**  
**Chapter Officer, Sept. 2007 – Aug. 2009**

- Worked with a small team to plan year round events for a group of social entrepreneurs and those interested in social change
- Created a community of social entrepreneurs at NYU
- Helped students with ideas for and implementation of social ventures

**Social Work Undergraduate Student Government Association, New York, NY**  
**Programming Chair, 2008 – 2009**

- Planned social events for social work students
- Worked with local non-profit organizations to host large-scale community service events

**Social Work Undergraduate Student Government Association, New York, NY**  
**Treasurer, 2007 – 2008**

- Managed entire undergraduate social work budget
- Budgeted community service projects and social gatherings for School of Social Work
- Fundraised for School Sponsored community service events
- Worked with a group of student leaders to create community within the School of Social Work

**Social Work Undergraduate Student Government Association, New York, NY**  
**Freshman Class Representative, 2006 – 2007**

- Helped classmates transition to college by building community
- Planned social events and informative events for freshman
- Represented interests of freshman class to faculty and student government

**Monte Vista High School Speech and Debate Team, Danville, CA**  
**Secretary, 2005 – 2006**

- Member and leader on nationally recognized debate team
- Coached students for local, state, and national tournaments
- Planned team events including large celebration banquet
- Participated in debate tournaments bi-weekly

**Monte Vista High School Young Democrats Club, Danville CA**  
**President, 2004 – 2006**

- Encouraged political debate and conversation on campus
- Planned service events for club members
- Managed group of officers and members

- **Planned and hosted large phone banking event for 2004 Presidential race**
- **Hosted political speakers on campus for entire student body**
- **Held bi-weekly open forums to encourage discussion on social and fiscal issues**