



Elizabeth Austin's Internship

My internship at the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Oklahoma was an invaluable experience that will benefit me for the rest of my life. I was able to work with and learn from amazing women who are great at what they do and I admire them so much! I learned so much about not only the Foundation, but also about non-profit organizations. I was able to work with every staff member on various projects and learn about every aspect of how this organization is run and I loved every part of it!

I was supervised by Deidre Schlunegger, the President & CEO of our chapter. I had no idea how much is put into running an organization. She opened my eyes to the business side of granting wishes and I learned how important it is to be in charge. We worked on various projects like re-vamping the bylaws and employee handbook as well as researching grant organizations and other nonprofits. Never having worked in an office setting before, I also learned so much about how to run an office. I had no idea there was so much to do and so much protocol to follow! It sounds silly, but I was really proud of myself when I learned to run the printer/copier/fax machine. One of my favorite parts of the internship was being able to help with Wine, Women & Shoes. It was so rewarding to see everyone's hard work pay off when it was time for the event. It was so fun to be able to participate and see how much money we raised for our Foundation and our wish kids. I also really enjoyed helping with wish files. It was a reminder of why I wanted to do this internship.

The best part of my internship was being able to become a wish granter. Even though the summer is over, and with it my internship, I hope to be able to keep granting wishes for the rest of my life. This is a wonderful organization and I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to participate in the internship program!!