

# Emily Zwart

(she/her)

## »»» Interview

### **Where are you from? What is your hometown?**

I am from Grimsby, Ontario.

### **Describe your career path?**

I have a long history of working in retail (American Eagle, Saks, IKEA, etc.) Once I got linked with Bethlehem through the CPCF Internship program, I was hooked and started working for them on a volunteer basis after the internship ended. I then got hired on for part time work and shortly after that they gave me a full-time position. My role with Bethlehem started out with running all their social media channels and being an extra hand at their events. Now that I am with them full time I oversee fundraising, communications, and events.

### **What do you like about what you are doing now?**

I like that I can be creative. It can be hard for the community to understand how affordable housing works so I try my best to generate interest through creating informational videos, social media campaigns, and events.

### **How did your education with CPCF prepare you for what you are doing today?**

CPCF gave me the skills and confidence I needed to prepare for working in a professional field.

### **What advice would you give current students or recent graduates interested in pursuing a career in your professional field?**

Working in the non-profit sector is hard work but nothing is more rewarding than knowing that your work results in changing someone's life for the better.

### **What brought you to Brock and to the CPCF department?**

I have a big entrepreneurial spirit and at a young age I was already making my own magazines to share with my family. Once I grew up, I knew that I had that drive and passion for creating communications. Once I found the program, I thought it applied best to what I wanted to pursue and as a lifelong Niagara resident, I wanted to stay in my community.

### **Share any experience that was meaningful to you.**

Hearing the experiences from other CPCF alumni is what first comes to mind. I feel like I learned a lot in those sessions and have been able to apply their advice to my own career.

### **What advice do have for current students who want to make the most out of their experience in CPCF at Brock?**

Enroll in CPCF's internship program! I am so glad that I finished my last year at Brock with having that experience.

### **What makes Brock's Department of CPCF stand out for you?**

The freedom that we had to be creative in our work, and that I could explore several of my passions in one program.