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Spring 2008

## Cheryl Lyon - Alzheimer's Association, Big Sioux Chapter

Cheryl Lyon

*University of Northern Iowa*

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### Recommended Citation

Lyon, Cheryl, "Cheryl Lyon - Alzheimer's Association, Big Sioux Chapter" (2008). *Robert and Yvonne Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement Recipients*. 46.

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# Cheryl Lyon - Alzheimer's Association, Big Sioux Chapter

## Robert and Yvonne Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement

Instructions: Please work with your internship supervisor to fill out this form. Once completed, return to Angie Gorsuch [redacted] by Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Name** Cheryl Lyon    **Agency** Alzheimer's Association, Big Sioux Chapter

**Intern's Phone Number and E-mail Address** [redacted]

**Organization Contact Person and Phone** Darla VanderPlaats, VP Finance and Operations.

[redacted]

**Academic Advisor Person and Phone** Laura Kaplan, Asst. Professor Social Work

[redacted]

**Future Plans for student** [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

**What did you accomplish during your internship?**

I was exposed to administrative roles in non-profit organizations. Two community foundation grants were written, with one approved and the other will not be announced until June 2008. The approved grant will increase awareness and provide county specific education to Clay County. Other projects included planning reassurance and respite care, consulting with families, initiating organization for Memory Walk to be held September 21, 2008, other fundraising , attended support group meetings, provided educational classes to facilities, maintained regional office in Spencer, Iowa.

**How did the internship benefit the student?**

The student was exposed to many administrative experiences in the organization. Setting up and managing a branch office in a community provided many unique experiences that provide a basis for future employment. Involvement in an organization during the transition between CEO's was enlightening.

**How did the internship benefit the agency?**

Cheryl's internship enabled the agency to open a branch office to serve a five county area. Having a social work intern in the office assisted in re-involving volunteers, assisted by having an office closer to the point of service.

**How does the internship benefit the community?**

Writing and obtaining the Clay County Foundation Grant will increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and provide educational opportunities in Clay County. The status of the Emmet County Grant will be known in June 2008. Having a regional office in Spencer is beneficial to families coping with Alzheimer's disease and memory loss related disorders.

**(Student to complete) One quote that describes the experience gained from completing this internship (to be used for promotional materials; please specify author of quote)?**

Experiencing setting up and opening the Alzheimer's Association Regional office in Spencer, Iowa provided me with varied administrative experiences. The skills I learned from involvement with families, volunteers, support groups, grant writing, and facilities will be useful in future employment.

Cheryl Lyon, MSW intern

**(Intern supervisor to complete) One quote that describes the impact the intern had on the community (to be used for promotional materials; please specify author of quote)?**

Cheryl's presence in the Spencer office has had a very positive impact on both the Spencer Community and surrounding area and the Alzheimer's Association. It has given people in the Great Lakes region someone to turn to with problems, questions, and concerns and has provided a communications avenue between that area and our organization. We in the Sioux City office are much more aware of the needs and concerns of the Spencer community and surrounding area and have a much better idea of what we can do to provide services in that region.

Darla Vander Plaats, Vice President of Finance and Operations

Alzheimer's Association- Big Sioux Chapter 4/14/08

**Please provide a reproducible photo of the intern in action at their internship for media purposes.**