A Summer in Garfield
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Introduction
This summer, through the Browne Fellowship, I had the amazing opportunity to explore the city I’ve come to love—Pittsburgh. Beyond the black and gold, the blue and gold, and the even the (odd) Pittsburgh slang, I was able to see what Pittsburgh was truly all about. The people, the organizations, and most importantly the collective community has shown me what Pittsburgh is all about, but also the places where we as a community, and as a Pitt community what we can do to around the city around us.

Community Demographics: Garfield
I was placed in Garfield, a vibrant neighborhood, that I coincidently had visited before. This time around I would be doing more than just visiting— I would be experiencing, exploring, becoming better acquainted with the community.

Community Needs/Issues
There’s a disconnect. Plain and simple. Students, parents, and the greater Garfield community could benefit from the services of many non-profit organizations. The issue is that rather than come beside the community—these organizations open the doors and just “expect” people to join in.

What’s Missing?

Development of Community.
“Many non-profits move into the community and just expect community to come to them—NOT TRUE.”
--Nina Barbuto

The Role that Assemble Plays
Assemble does the work, and goes in the community, fostering and nurturing their relationships with community leaders. Assemble proves its worth to community continuously by having students that excited to attend, but even more excited to share what they’ve learned with their own friends and family. Assemble continues to be cornerstone in lives of students beyond summer camps and programs.

My Role at Assemble
I served as a virtual teacher, but also had opportunities to take part in in-person activities. I also made kits, and even planned lesson for students.

What I learned

01
02
03
04
05
The importance of being a part of community
Learning can look different
Open-mindedness
The importance of caring
It’s in the little things