Lauren Abrams:
My job as the Positive Tails intern was to find creative ways that make this organization stand out so that virtual events are appealing and will help with the loss funds from cancelled in-person events. This was a challenge but I am thankful I had the internship during these times because I now have more knowledge about how organizations can adapt. I was able to learn a lot about fundraisers and the importance of social media. I would recommend this internship to other nonprofit students because the supervisor and other board members give you more responsibility and help you lead your own projects. I was able to accomplish everything I wanted to learn during this internship. I have always wanted to work in nonprofits and this internship solidified what I wanted to do in the future.

Paris Woods:
COVID-19 required a major shift for the internship. Although it would have been great to venture into an office, I don’t think the experience would have been the same. This internship gave me a platform to be a part of projects I was genuinely passionate about, including reaching thousands of 4-H youth by partnering with a National 4-H Council to launch the “Opportunity 4 All Platform.” This national campaign aims to address the inequities in various communities to empower and inspire youth. The campaign seamlessly took the place of the work I would have done. In spite of the circumstances, I can confidently say that this was a successful internship experience. My internship with Chesterfield Extension provided me more opportunities and knowledge than I ever thought I could acquire.

Chelsey Deacon:
I had the opportunity to intern at Vine & Fig, a nonprofit that focuses on environmental sustainability and social justice, located at the edge of Downtown Harrisonburg. If it was not for the minor’s requirement of an internship, I do not think I would have been as likely to be a part of a nonprofit that I want to pursue after I complete my formal studies at JMU, and I cannot wait to see what opportunities I will be able to find with this experience under my belt.

Katie Siewert:
This summer taught me so much more about the world of nonprofit organizations and the impact they have on communities. As I interned with Hopewell Church, I was able to connect key terms and further my own research in order to understand more concepts. This internship taught me the importance of relational connections with others, the impact from volunteering, and the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes of an organization. My supervisor really helped me grow. Everyone I worked with allowed me to be in charge of my own schedule and plan things out. Nonprofit organizations are very flexible to solve problems that come out of nowhere; the pandemic made this even truer. This experience, although difficult at times, has been very enriching for my own growth in nonprofit knowledge. I am very grateful for the opportunity as I worked with volunteers and the church staff to positively impact people throughout the community.