

Re: Ryan Reed

I've known Ryan for several years, dating back to 2006 when Ryan was an undergrad student at Alderson Broadus College in Philippi, WV. My first encounter was when Ryan visited our ministry in Camden, NJ, on a short-term mission trip; Ryan stood out to me as an exceptional young man and leader among his peers. We stayed in touch and when Ryan began his graduate studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, only one hour from Camden, we discussed internship possibilities with UrbanPromise Ministries. Since 1988, UrbanPromise, a Christian based youth development program has worked with inner-city and underserved youth in two private schools K-12, afterschool and summer camp programs throughout the city of Camden. You may visit the website for more information at www.urbanpromiseusa.org.

In the spring/summer of 2007 he worked under my supervision. During this period, Ryan worked as the Workgroup Coordinator in administration and ministry to the high school and college students who came to UP on short-term mission trips. His responsibilities were very broad in helping to run this program. The essential skills were organizational and communicative. He was responsible to supervise a high school intern, and provide direction to the youth group leaders and students on multiple assignments simultaneously. Multi-tasking was essential, along with the need to think quickly and remain flexible in order to manage the many tasks happening at once. Ryan did all of these things with competence and completed each task exceptionally well.

Ryan's strengths are both relational and organizational. He led morning devotions and also created and wrote a workgroup blog to which he had the students contribute. In addition, he also wrote a workgroup manual about the workgroup program, the history and vision of UrbanPromise, and the history and current socio-political environment of the City of Camden. He placed a huge importance on researching the issues of the city and integrating those findings in his teachings and discussions with students and leaders. Ryan also had an amazing heart for the both the city and kids of Camden. Ryan led panel discussions between the visiting workgroup students and the urban youth of our ministry programs. Toward the end of his internship, he spearheaded a research campaign targeting environmental discrimination on the residents of South Camden. His efforts caught the attention of the UrbanPromise President, Bruce Main, even earning Ryan a place in Main's book, *Why Jesus Crossed the Road*.

Ryan is bright, as well as an exceptionally hard worker and self-starter. I believe he would be an excellent addition to your staff. He is focused and the time he spent in service and ministry at UrbanPromise has further equipped him in discerning his call to ministry.

Jim Cummings
Director of Experiential Learning
UrbanPromise Ministries