

# Stories of Engagement

Health and Public Service

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## Public Service Scholar Provides Safe Haven at Dearborn

By Princess Gordon



Lena Ransohoff '17

As part of a select group of undergraduate students engaged in meaningful volunteer, community service-learning and advocacy work, Public Service Scholar, Lena Ransohoff '17 helped create The Sober Housing Initiative. After overcoming addiction and upon entering Cornell in 2013, Lena became involved with a new club at the time, Sober@Cornell. This club was started for people who were facing or had previously faced similar issues with addiction. Having a profound impact in her life, Sober@Cornell assisted Lena through recovery and taught her to proceed through college sober. Faculty advisor, Professor William Sonnenstuhl aided Lena and others to develop Cornell's first sober, recovery-focused house on North

Campus, which is called Dearborn, formerly known as the Sober House. In order to begin the project, Lena and other co-founders received the Ewing Family Service Award.

While she feels that more education about this issue still needs to happen on campus, as it is an issue that often goes unacknowledged, Lena thinks that Cornell is taking appropriate efforts to change attitudes towards addiction and recognize help that may be needed on campus. Lena states that these efforts towards sobriety have been shown to reach people and "plant a seed for those who may not be ready now but could be in the future." As a senior, Lena may be leaving Cornell, but she has no intentions of leaving



Dearborn House



Dearborn Members

the project.

During her remaining time here, she is working to increase awareness of Dearborn as well as its mission. Upon leaving, she plans to remain in close ties with Dearborn and its founders, helping to keep it well established and well known. More information about Dearborn can be shown here: <http://orgsync.rso.cornell.edu/org/soberatcornell/>