Full-circle. This is the statement that I used to guide my practicum experience. I started with The Healing Trust, an organization that prides itself on being compassionate grantors. Established in 2002, The Healing Trust has provided more than $87 million to the Middle Tennessee community. The mission of The Healing Trust is to do the sacred work of fostering healing and wholeness for vulnerable populations through strategic investing, philanthropy and advocacy.

While at The Healing Trust, I was able to participate in the life cycle of the grant process, starting with the introductory workshop, downloading preliminary grants, analyzing final grant proposals and lastly to determine whether to approve or deny grant proposals. Additionally, I participated in weekly huddles with the programming team, sent out a weekly news alerts and grantee synopsis, conducted research projects, conducted program evaluations and grant applications evaluations and revamped the advocacy goal tracker and the advocacy workshop.

I used this experience working in philanthropy, awarding grants, and monitoring and evaluating grantees to guide my transition to my second practicum Siloam Health, a Healing Trust grantee. With the mission to share the love of Christ by serving those in need through healthcare, Siloam is motivated by the love of Jesus Christ and believes that God has called them to be a healing and welcoming community that is an extension of the local Body of Christ.

My time at Siloam Health was spent with both the community health team and the fundraising and development team. My primary objective was to analyze and compile data from the Tennessee Office of Refugees regarding Siloam’s Refugee Medical Screening (RMS) process and complete a finalized report detailing the health status of all refugees, which has the potential to be published. I also worked on community health worker data consolidation and reports, stewardship note entry into the donor database, and conducted over 1000 soft credit fundraiser-salsa constituent ID data prep.

My primary objectives that I developed at the beginning of my practicum for both The Healing Trust and Siloam Health were all thoroughly met. While, my initial projects and objectives did not change, I worked on and completed research and projects as they became available. Full-circle.