

SafetyNest Internship

Ruth Zheng

BACKGROUND

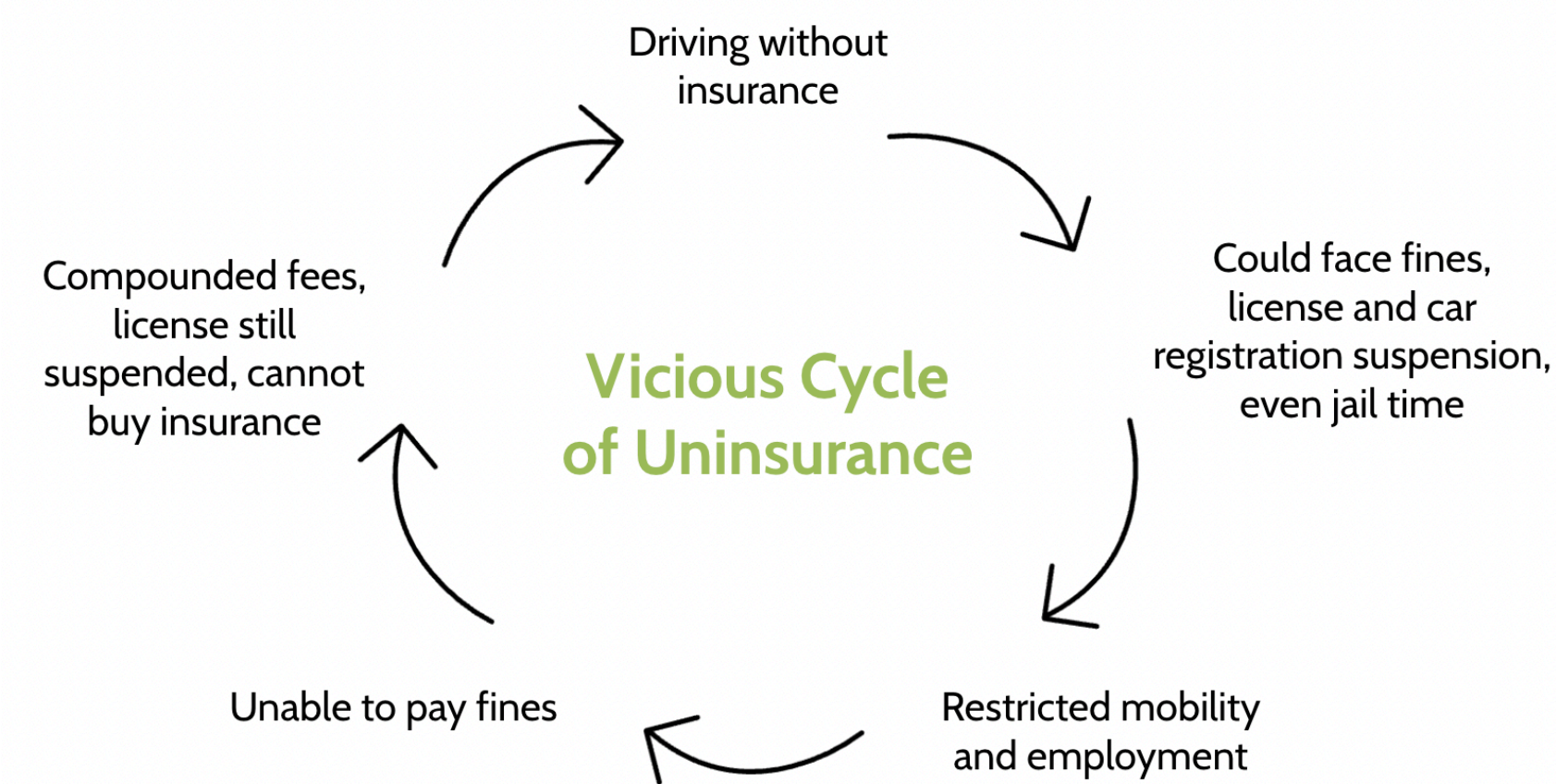
SafetyNest is a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded by Branch Insurance based in Columbus, OH. In the U.S., 13% of drivers do not have car insurance. SafetyNest’s mission is to reduce the number of uninsured drivers to <1% by 2039 through financial assistance programs, education, research, and legislative exploration.

I serve SafetyNest as their Development Associate Intern. This remote position is from June 2021 to May 2022. I was interested in nonprofit work and found this position on Handshake. After two rounds of interviews, I was selected for the role.

SafetyNest logo



Vicious cycle of driving uninsured



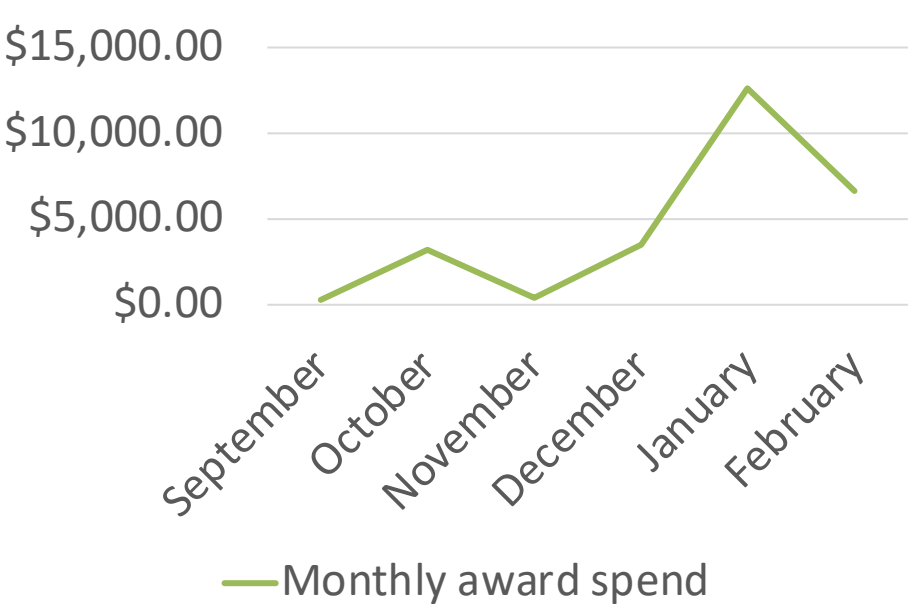
Accident Help

The Accident Help program is the original program launched by SafetyNest. These awards are given to applicants who got into an accident and did not have the right amount of insurance and are left with out-of-pocket costs that could negatively impact them financially. These awards are typically in the thousands of dollars and aim to have a deep impact on the individual applicants, however, this is a very reactionary program instead of proactively attempting to reduce the uninsured population before accidents occur.

Insurance Payment Program

The Insurance Payment Program (IPP) was launched in response to COVID-19. If an applicant was impacted by the pandemic (i.e. illness or job loss), SafetyNest would mail a \$250 check to the applicant’s insurance company to help pay for their car insurance policy.

IPP Awards 2020-2021



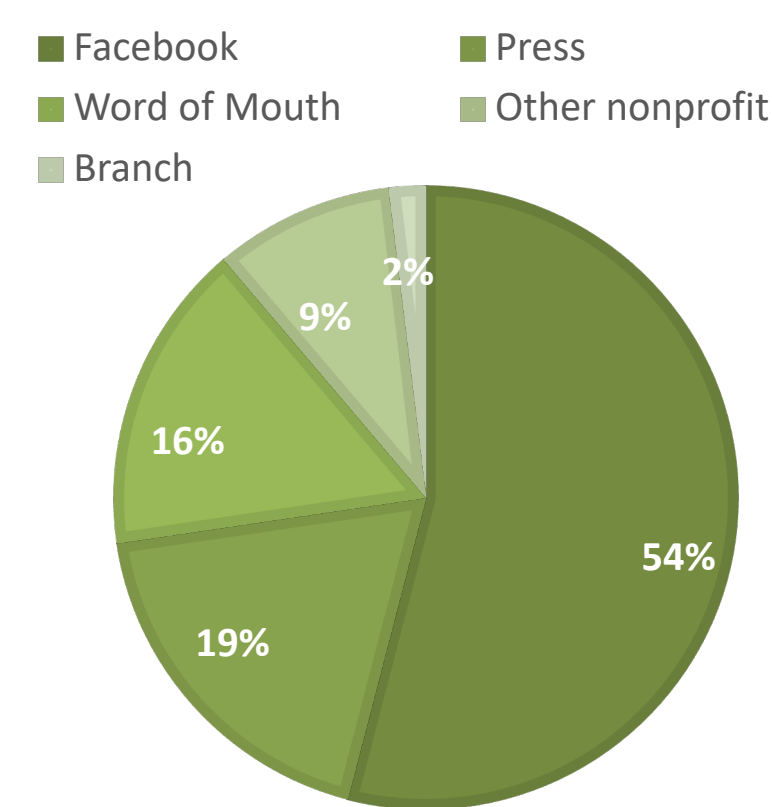
MAIN DUTIES

- Review financial assistance program applications, conduct interviews, and debrief with supervisor weekly to select awardees.
- Conduct grassroots effort outreach to spread awareness of financial assistance program.
- Network with Columbus area nonprofits through monthly workgroup meetings and provide SafetyNest updates and opportunities for collaboration.
- Attend monthly workgroup meetings with the Ohio State Risk Institute to discuss research progress and direction.
- Schedule and attend meetings with potential partners and organizations to discuss their expertise and involvement and potential for synergies.

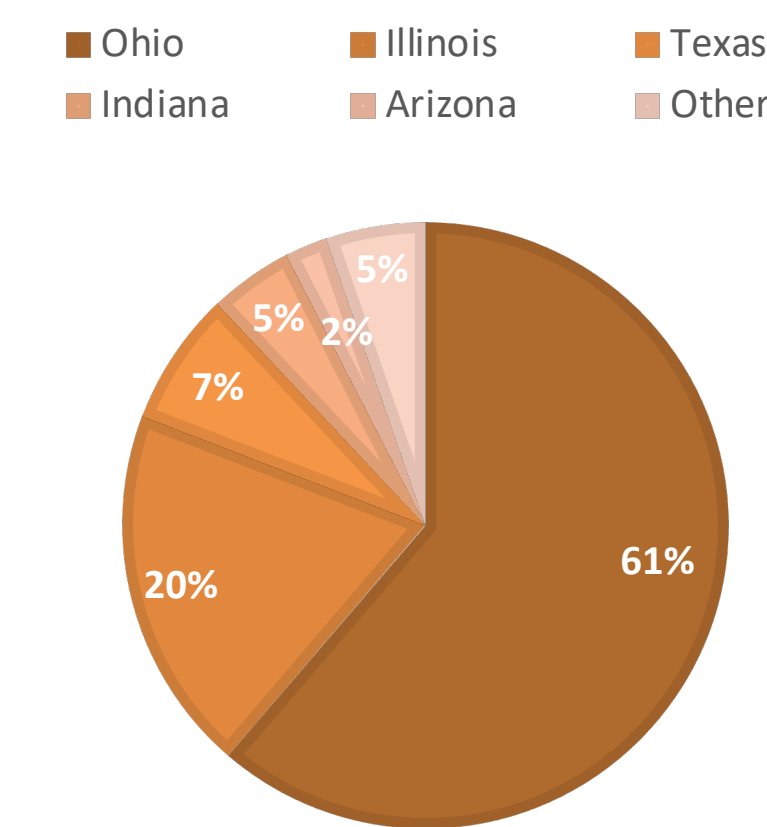
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Reviewed 43 applicants in 3.5 months.
- Conducted 15 interviews.
- Distributed 5 awards.
- Prepared and presented quarterly and annual reports.
- Increased company awareness surrounding financial exclusivity through an interactive financial literacy quiz and presentation drawing from preliminary research results from the Ohio State Risk Institute.
- Collaborated with interns to propose flood insurance integration paths that align with Branch’s values and business model.

IPP Applicant Distribution by Channel



IPP Applicant Distribution by State



REFLECTION

SafetyNest has given me the opportunity to work with a new nonprofit in a dynamic internship role. I have been able to improve many skills including professional writing, oral communication, interviewing, marketing, and relationship building. My future career aspirations consist of working at the community level to improve quality of life and tackle systemic issues related to poverty. I would like to continue seeking opportunities in the nonprofit or social enterprise sector.

My recommendations to a student seeking a similar experience is to keep an open mind and exercise emotional intelligence. The Development Associate role is really what you make of it. There is endless room for growth and new ideas.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY