Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University

Placement Information

Gesu School Classrooms

Address: 1700 West Thompson St
Philadelphia, PA 19121

Phone: (215) 763-3660

Supervisor: Sister Ellen Convey
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Denise Jackson
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Transportation: Approximate travel time by car: 20 minutes

Description of Agency/Activities:
Gesu School is a Catholic elementary school over a hundred years old and is run jointly by the IHM Sisters and the Jesuits. Gesu is more than an elementary school. Safe, warm, colorful, orderly — within its walls, the 425 African-American children who attend find themselves not only students, but members of a family. At once loving, demanding, challenging, nurturing and forgiving, the Gesu environment affirms the value and talents of each child, and in turn expects the very best from them. Instructed by a dedicated faculty whose members make financial sacrifices to teach there, Gesu students become academic achievers, while learning to be good people, too.

Student Role in Agency:
St. Joseph’s University Service-Learning students will run an after-school program or club that relates to business basics and/or stock markets. SJU service-learning volunteers will be mentors for students participating in the club, and will provide a space where students from Gesu can have a better understanding of business and stock markets.

Unique Features of agency:
For the children in its care, Gesu is a home, a sanctuary, and oasis from the hardships and perils that surround their young lives. Within their walls, children find themselves immersed in an inspired mix of academic knowledge and spiritual values that offers them the promise of a principled, fulfilling life. The dangers are all around, but at Gesu, they are kept outside.

Orientation & Requirements: SJU and Gesu School policies require 4 clearances to volunteer at this placement: Criminal Background, Child Abuse History, FBI Fingerprinting and Minors on Campus Training Video. More information on how to complete these clearances is available at www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents and at Placement Awareness Training.