Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University

Placement Information

Project H.O.M.E- St. Columbia’s

Address: 1850 North Croskey Street
           Philadelphia, PA 19121

Phone: (215) 232-7272

Supervisor: Naomi Wilson

Description of Agency/Activities: St. Columbia’s is a 30-bed facility providing shelter, case management, support services, and on-site medical care to chronically homeless men. The role of St. Columbia’s is to provide a supportive, caring environment while encouraging the desire for growth, healing, and recovery in each individual. St. Columbia’s serves frail and vulnerable men for whom city shelters are inappropriate and who have no other immediate housing alternatives. This includes elderly men with or without ongoing drug and/or alcohol abuse as well as mentally ill or dually diagnosed men over 18.

Student Role in Agency:
• Students are needed to form relationships with the men primarily through art classes as a part of Project HOME’s cultural and creative programming efforts. Students will work with staff to develop activities and plan projects to do with the men. Staff will provide ideas and guidance to students as they begin and will give more independence as students become more comfortable in their role.

Unique Features of agency: This is transitional housing. The length of stay varies generally ranges from 9 to 12 months during which time residents participate in groups and meetings at the residence as well as off premises outpatient treatment. The program is structured and requires resident readiness to change substance use behaviors. Residents pay 30% of their income for rent and $20 per week for food. Following graduation, follow-up support services are provided for at least one year.

Orientation & Requirements: An orientation will be provided prior to the beginning of service. SJU and Project HOME 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.