Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University

Placement Information

Saint John’s Hospice/Good Shepherd

Address: 1221 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: (215) 563-7763

Supervisor: Kristine Jaeger

E-mail: kjaeger@chs-adphila.org

Days and Times: Monday and Tuesday 4-7pm
Up to 3 students per time

Description of Agency/Activities:
The mission of St. John’s Hospice/Good Shepherd is to be a “community grounded in faith and service where homeless persons find dignity, respect, nourishment and opportunity for new beginnings”. St. John’s runs three programs for homeless men in Philadelphia: Residential services for Men, Lunch/Day Program, and the Good Shepherd Program for 12 medically fragile men. Every weekday approximately 350-400 men are served a noon meal through the Outreach Lunch Program. St. John’s Residential Program offers clothing and casework services to connect men with shelter, substance abuse treatment and employment; it is home to 40 men for up to 1 year. The Day Program offers hot meals, showers, clothing, a mailing address etc. to men who are there for less than a day. The Good Shepherd Program offers care to homeless, medically fragile men.

Student Role in Agency:
Students working during the evening shifts will be asked to assist with meal preparation and serving and will be expected to interact with the men during and after dinner. Students will be expected to engage in conversation and activities with the men in an effort to build relationships. (Activities can include a movie/discussion, current events or topic-centered discussion/conversation). Student volunteers should expect to take the initiative to engage the residents of St. John’s Good Shepherd Program. Students must be willing to go outside of their comfort zones in an effort to meet the men where there are.

Unique Features of Agency: St. John’s creates a safe environment for men who have come from living on the streets. It seeks to be a place of “charity unlimited” (the definition of hospice), and build community among men, staff, and volunteers through its programs.

Orientation & Requirements: An orientation will be provided the first day of service. This community partner organization requires you only to complete a Criminal Background Clearance. In the state of Pennsylvania, this clearance is free for volunteers. Please follow the instructions on www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents for completing the Criminal Background Clearance and submit a copy to directly placement before October 7.