Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University

Placement Information

Families Forward Philadelphia

Address: 111 N. 49th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19139

Phone: (215) 240-4800

E-Mail: mbrooke@familiesforwardphilly.org

Supervisor: Matthew Brooke

Transportation: Approximate travel time by car 15 minutes

Service Days/Times: Wednesday & Thursday 3:30-6:00pm

Description of Agency: Traveler’s Aid Family Services of Philadelphia assists homeless families and travelers in Philadelphia. TAFSP provides professional counseling, emergency shelter, housing, direct assistance, and children and youth services for two groups of people: homeless families and stranded travelers. TAFSP provides informational services and advice to the traveling public at transportation centers. It operates an after school program for children of resident families, providing educational support, games and activities, and mentorship.

Student Role in Agency: Students will serve as assistants in the after school program, supporting the coordinators and teachers in the classroom with activities and tutoring, forming long term relationships with children, and developing activities, games, or interests for children based on skills and abilities. Students may work in both classrooms in a given afternoon, helping to support children and teachers when needed. Students will form long-term, meaningful relationships with children in the program and will share experiences while learning from the children.

Unique Features of agency: Traveler’s Aid seeks to create a supportive, familiar environment for children displaced by homelessness. While living in the residence, children are permitted to remain at their original school so often do not have consistent social groups at home and at school, and may be working on different school work than their peers in the program at any given time. Traveler’s Aid staff gets to know each student to best support them personally and academically.

All 4 Clearances and Tests
SJU and Families Forward 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.

A Tuberculosis test within the year is required to begin volunteering with this community partner. You may choose any participating health physician’s office or the SJU Student Health Center, located on the first floor of Sourin Hall and follow their directions. If you select the SJU Health Center, there will be a $10 fee to administer the injection. Any student who finds the $10 fee an economic hardship should contact Ella Guimond, x1334.

Student Orientation is required by CPO.