Service Days/Times: Wednesdays 1:00pm-4pm and Thursday 9am-12pm.

Description of Agency/Activities: KenCrest’s mission is to initiate, develop and maintain quality programs that result in greater visibility, understanding, acceptance, service and support for individuals who have or are at risk of having mental retardation or a developmental disability. KenCrest believes that a positive supportive environment - based on the equitable interchange among all people - offers the greatest opportunity for the maximization of human potential.

Student Role in Agency: Students will assist with center activities and work one on one with early childhood students. Student volunteers will work from a “High Scope” curriculum when working with the children.

Unique Features of Agency: The KenCrest Kensington Early Childhood Center serves 175 children in 8 classrooms. All of the children are ages three to five, 65% are Latino (some bilingual and others speak only Spanish) and 99% are from families living at or below the poverty level. The children’s disabilities include autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, developmental delays, physical and social/emotional challenges as well as children at risk for developmental delays. All services for children with special needs are provided in an inclusive setting.

Orientation & Requirements: 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.