

Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University



Puentes de Salud

Address	1835 S. 9th St. Philadelphia, PA 19148
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Transportation	Approximately 25- 30 minutes by car
Clearances Required	FBI Fingerprints, Criminal Records, Child Abuse, Minors on Campus

Description of the Agency:

"Puentes de Salud is an organization that promotes the health and wellness of South Philadelphia's rapidly growing Latino immigrant population through high-quality health care, innovative educational programs, and community building.

The foundation of Puentes de Salud rests on the belief **that community health is not the sole domain of health care providers**. Health and wellness result from a collaborative, multidisciplinary effort that focuses on addressing the conditions in which we grow, learn, live, work and age. These conditions influence an individual's vulnerability to illness and its consequences. While providing health care to the South Philadelphia Latino community, Puentes de Salud also works in partnership with community members, local public schools, universities, governmental institutions and other nonprofit organizations to improve the adverse economic and social conditions that threaten the health of our vibrant, yet vulnerable community."

Puentes de Salud runs, among its many programs, after school tutoring support and mentorship to students grades K-8. They are split up by age level doing homework, social and educational activities with staff and volunteers.

Student Role in Agency:

Students work in a particular classroom, providing homework help, playing games, or doing other activities with the children in the program. Many of the students come from the South Philadelphia area, some speak another primary language, and many look to volunteers as role models and needed support academically and personally. The organization seeks to serve each child and their family holistically as part of a "community health" program, and volunteers become an important part of that large, complex process.

Orientation and Requirements: SJU and Puentes de Salud 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.