Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society- After School

Describe the Agency/Activities: As a long-time refugee service provider, HIAS Pennsylvania seeks to help refugee students successfully overcome such challenges by providing extra support, including two after-school programs and a summer academy in Northeast Philadelphia. The aim of these programs is to facilitate socialization and provide academic and language enrichment. For example, at our program at Spruance School, staff and volunteers offer their time and enthusiasm three days a week to twenty-two children in grades K-8, helping with homework and reinforcing what they are learning in the classroom. The program provides a space for growth for all who are involved; as one volunteer puts it, “I receive way more in return than they will ever know.”

Student Role in Agency: SJU students working in the K-8 school would supplement after-school teachers in the classroom, helping with homework, reading to children, and assisting or leading with activities. In the high school, volunteers would also assist with homework, and assist or lead activities related to literacy, community-building, life skills and post-high school preparation.

Orientation and Requirements: SJU and HIAS policies require 4 clearances to volunteer at this placement: Criminal Background, Child Abuse History, FBI Fingerprinting and Minors on Campus Training Video. HIAS requires that clearances must be entirely completed before beginning service at HIAS. More information on how to complete these clearances is available at www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents and at Placement Awareness Training.

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