

## Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University



### Kencrest Transitional Homes

<b>Address</b>	Location #1: 1 Waterman Ave. Chestnut Hill, PA 19118 Location #2: 6341 Ridge Ave Philadelphia, PA 19128
<b>Supervisor</b>	Margaret McKelvey
<b>Phone</b>	610-701-1136
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:Mckelvey@Kencrest.org">Mckelvey@Kencrest.org</a>
<b>Transportation</b>	Approximate Travel Time by Car: 30 minutes
<b>Service Times</b>	Ridge Ave: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm Waterman Ave: Monday and Thursday 3:30-6:30pm
<b>Placement Availability</b>	2 students per time
<b>Clearances Required</b>	Criminal Records Check, FBI Fingerprints, Child Abuse Clearance, Minors on Campus, TB Test

**Description of Agency/Activities:** In 1991, KenCrest developed the first model transitional care home for infants and young children who were ready for discharge from hospitals, but whose families could not provide the skilled care they required. KenCrest's purpose is to prevent further institutionalization, promote social, emotional, and developmental growth, along with the physical healing of the child. Thereby they provide children a home setting in the community while facilitating the ability of the biological family to take their child home.

**Their Mission:** To provide transitional care to children who are medically fragile while promoting 1) the growth of the child both physically and emotionally, 2) enhance and strengthen the bond between parent and child, 3) increase independent parental skills working toward reunification. Different from the hospital or institutional setting, this model of care was chosen because it has been proven that the home environment greatly enhances the developmental, social, and medical rehabilitation of each child.

**Student Role in Agency:** SJU students will work with medically fragile children in KenCrest's transitional homes. They will build relationships with children and communicate given a variety of verbal and auto capacities. Some children are unable to speak but light up when playing with a student volunteer. SJU students will play and interact with the children, organized activities for them and enrich their lives in general by their presence and interactions.

**Unique Features:** The KenCrest staff creates a positive, healthy, caring and accepting atmosphere so that the children may reach their highest potential – a truly unique and amazing environment for the children.

**Orientation & Requirements:** SJU and KenCrest policies require 4 clearances and a Tuberculosis test to volunteer at this placement: Criminal Background, Child Abuse History, FBI Fingerprinting  
Updated 1/12/16

and Minors on Campus Training Video. More information on how to complete these clearances is available at [www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents](http://www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents) and at Placement Awareness Training. **Please note that all clearances must be completed BEFORE starting service at Kencrest Transitional. Please plan accordingly and get your fingerprints done on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Faith-Justice Institute.**

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 Ann Marie Jursca Keffer at x1337.