

## Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University



### People's Emergency Center

<b>Address</b>	325 North 39 <sup>th</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19104
<b>Supervisor</b>	Peg McCool
<b>Phone</b>	<a href="tel:(267)777-5874">(267) 777-5874</a>
<b>Email</b>	pmccool@pec-cares.org
<b>Transportation</b>	Approximate Travel Time by Car: 20 Minutes
<b>Service Times</b>	Wednesday 3:00-5:00pm
<b>Placement Availability</b>	2 students
<b>Clearances Required</b>	FBI Fingerprints, Criminal Records, Child Abuse, Minors on Campus  ** Please note: Clearances must be completed within 60 days of start date at service.

**Description of Agency/Activities:** Families who turn to PEC for help come with many serious problems. Most have never lived on their own. A large number are headed by single mothers in their early twenties -- or younger -- with several young children. These mothers typically read at a sixth grade level or lower and have little or no work experience. Nearly 60 percent survived childhood sexual abuse and have struggled to cope without treatment most of their lives. A third is fleeing violent partners. Many have turned to substance abuse. Their children all too often suffer from hunger and sickness, fall behind in school, and grapple with emotional problems. PEC teaches homeless families to be self-sufficient in a nurturing residential environment that allows them time to heal and grow. Our intensive continuum of care gives families the tools to live independently and set their children on a path to healthy adulthood.

**Step One:** Families start out in our Emergency Shelter, with round-the-clock support, where they begin to address the underlying issues that lead to their homelessness. **Step Two:** As families stabilize, they move to Transitional Housing. **Step Three:** Permanent Housing with follow-up case management, support services and counseling is provided. (as cited on the People's Emergency Center Web Site: <http://www.pec-cares.org/about-pec.html>)

**Student Role:** Student volunteers will be assisting in the afterschool program at PEC. They will play games, help with homework, and serve as mentors for children whose families are being provided housing by the organization.

**Unique Aspects of the Agency:** People's Emergency Center seeks to respect and support individuals as part of a communities (cultural, familial, geographical, etc.). PEC works to keep families together, help parents to be  
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empowered through education and life skills while providing childhood experiences to their children. It is a supportive environment that respects the dignity of each person who lives there or uses PEC services.

**Orientation and Requirements:** SJU and People's Emergency Center 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](http://www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents) and at Placement Awareness Training.

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