

## Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University



**Providence  
Center**

### Providence Center- After School

<b>Address</b>	2635 N. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street (Office) Philadelphia, PA 19133
<b>Supervisor</b>	Maura Bernt
<b>Phone</b>	(215)739-7465
<b>Email</b>	mbernt@providencecentershcj.org
<b>Transportation</b>	Approximate Travel Time by Car: 30 Minutes
<b>Date and Time Available</b>	Monday and Thursday 2:30-5:30pm
<b>Capacity</b>	2 students on Monday and 6 students on Thursday
<b>Clearances Required</b>	FBI Fingerprints, Criminal Records, Child Abuse, Minors on Campus

**Description of Agency/Activities:** Providence Center is based in a row house in North Philadelphia, an area devastated by deterioration, drugs and violence. Providence Center offers an alternative to this environment, recognizing all life situations are “learning environments.” Its programs are directed toward meeting the needs of neighborhood people through comprehensive educational and social services for children, adults and families. Providence Center is a place of hospitality and service. In a spirit of giving and receiving, the Center seeks to empower people to assume responsibility for their lives. Staff members strive to be a presence in the neighborhood, to listen to the needs of area residents, to reflect with them on lived experience and to take action. The afterschool program is directed towards main stream students that are not on track in their academics. Often times the children have hyperactive disorders, and a certain amount of patience is asked from the volunteers.

#### **Student Role in Agency:**

- Students will work with dedicated Providence Center staff to offer the After School Program to children in grades K through sixth. The Program relies on a caring environment to reassure children that they are safe and secure.
- Activities include homework help snacks, games and small discussion groups on children’s concerns. There are monthly opportunities for cultural and recreational activities outside the center.

- SJU students should be willing to take the initiative and start conversations with the children.
- Students will be working with teenage mentors for the children in the afterschool care.

**Unique Features of agency:** Providence Center has been working with the Service-Learning Program from the program's early years. The staff is caring and very willing to work with SJU volunteers.

**Orientation:** Orientation will be provided on the first day of service. SJU and Providence Center – After School 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.