

Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University



St. Francis Inn

Address	2441 Kensington Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19125
Supervisor	Sr. Leslie Birks
Phone	(215) 423-5845
Email	leslieosf@aol.com
Transportation	Approximate Travel Time by Car: 30 Minutes
Service Times	Monday and Wednesday 4:00-6:30pm
Placement Availability	4 Students per night
Clearances Required	No Clearances Required

Description of Agency/Activities: During the late 1970s, three Franciscans came to Philadelphia and soon realized that the people of Kensington urgently needed the basic human rights of food, shelter and clothing. The Inn has a small room used as a soup kitchen which provides food for more than 200 people each day. As the meal is served, people are seated four to a table and a long line forms outside. Franciscan friars, nuns and lay volunteers serve a home-cooked meal to hundreds of guests in a few hours. They also provide food baskets for families, mail services, phone usage, and many intangible resources. The purpose of St. Francis Inn is to love and care for the forgotten ones; prostitutes, drug addicts, the homeless, the deinstitutionalized mentally ill, poor families and senior citizens.

Student Role in Agency:

Students will help prepare and serve dinner, serving as “waiters” to the individual tables where community members eat. They will ask what each person wants, and bring the food to their table. This format enables students to have direct contact and conversation with each person at their assigned tables during service. Students must be willing to treat each person with dignity and respect. Students must be willing to overcome stereotypes and be interested in learning about the lives of the people they serve. Other responsibilities will be assigned as necessary. The students are asked to please be prompt and remember to sign in.

Unique Features of agency:

St. Francis Inn serves daily meals to children, poor families, addicts and the elderly, open 365 days a year. Guests are seated at tables and served by staff and volunteers. The Inn works to convey the message that all that come have dignity.

Orientation & Requirements: An Orientation will be provided on the first day of service.