Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University

Puentes de Salud

**Address**  
1700 South Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19148

**Supervisor**  
Alexandra Wolkoff (Assistant Director)

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**Transportation**  
Approximately 25-30 minutes by car

**Service Times**  
Tuesday  3:00-6:00pm  
Thursday  3:00-6:00pm

**Placement Availability**  
2 students per day

**Clearances Required**  
FBI Fingerprints, Criminal Records, Child Abuse, Minors on Campus

**Description of the Agency:** “Puentes de Salud is an organization promotes the health and wellness of South Philadelphia’s rapidly growing Latino immigrant population through high-quality health care, innovative educational programs, and community building.

The foundation of Puentes de Salud rests on the belief that community health is not the sole domain of health care providers. Health and wellness result from a collaborative, multidisciplinary effort that focuses on addressing the conditions in which we grow, learn, live, work and age. These conditions influence an individual’s vulnerability to illness and its consequences. While providing healthcare to the South Philadelphia Latino community, Puentes de Salud also works in partnership with community members, local public schools, universities, governmental institutions and other nonprofit organizations to improve the adverse economic and social conditions that threaten the health of our vibrant, yet vulnerable community.” Puentes de Salud runs, among its many programs, after school tutoring support and mentorship to students grades K-8. They are split up by age level doing homework, social and educational activities with staff and volunteers.

**Student Role in Agency:**
Students work with high school aged students, with an academic tutoring component for about an hour, and the afternoon has a different focus in either leadership or college prep, and the program provides weekend college visits. Many of the students come from the South Philadelphia area, some speak another primary language, and many look to volunteers as role models and needed support academically and personally. The organization seeks to serve each child and their family holistically as part of a “community health” program, and volunteers become an important part of that large, complex process.

**Orientation and Requirements:** SJU and Puentes de Salud 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.

Updated 5/31/18
*Students will be required to attend a training with Puentes prior to beginning service and fill out a volunteer application.