

Sample Practicum Opportunity Description

Name of Agency/Organization:

St. Christopher's Foundation for Children (SCFC)

Purpose/Mission of Agency/Organization:

The mission of St. Christopher's Foundation for Children (SCFC) of Philadelphia, PA is to support the health and well-being of children in the community served by St. Christopher's Hospital for Children through programs in the areas of care, outreach, research, and education. This population consists primarily of low income children and their families in North Philadelphia.

Practicum Title:

Developing Evaluation Strategies for the St. Christopher's Foundation for Children's Farm to Families Initiative

Brief Practicum Description & Proposed Approach:

The Farm to Families Initiative is an innovative project launched and run by St. Christopher's Foundation that works with community-based organizations to address availability and affordability of fresh food in North Philadelphia through efforts to make fresh food available and affordable in the food deserts of Philadelphia. On a year round basis, the program supplies North Philadelphia families with boxes of wholesome fresh produce or fruit at a cost of \$10 or \$15 every week. Boxes are packed with seasonal fruits and vegetables, often valued at double the price.

In an innovative effort to target families who are at highest risk, the project collaborates with area health care providers who are writing "prescriptions" to the program for their patients. Initially launched at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, the program has expanded to various health centers throughout the city.

The student will be contributing to the project by conducting internal program development. Previously, there has been a dearth of available labor and resources to complete this analysis. Therefore, the practicum provides the organization with a much-needed intern at a time when the project is growing exponentially as it serves a larger and larger community.

Practicum Goals:

The main goal of the practicum is to develop and produce a Program Evaluation Strategy for the internal uses of St. Christopher's Foundation for Children. As a young program, this project has had the opportunity to adapt quickly to lessons learned over the past few years. As such, the program has evolved and changed since the last time that an Outcomes Analysis was conducted.

Examples of work the intern could accomplish during the placement:

The student will:

1. Conduct a gap analysis defining the ideal outcomes strategy with critical pathways identified to achieve this idea state.
2. Develop a timeline for work to guide the organization step-by-step in the development of the program evaluation process, given that some of the work may need to be continued following the end of the practicum.
3. Execute program evaluation, which includes an analysis of current, de-identified data available through the current data collection mechanism, development and implementation of additional data collection methods, analysis of additional data (as available), and completion of final program evaluation.

4. Complete additional work which may be identified through the practicum experience outside of what is identified in this document.

Skills needed by the student to complete the practicum:

Strong oral and written communication skills, experience or coursework in program evaluation and data analysis, interest in healthy food initiatives and/or programs supporting the health and well-being of children

Number of students requested for this practicum: 1

Anticipated time commitment needed for one student (hours per week): 8

Expected START DATE for practicum: MM/DD/YYYY

Expected END DATE for practicum: MM/DD/YYYY

Anticipated Total Practicum Hours: 100

Application Procedure: Submit a cover letter and resume/CV to _____.

Organization URL: _____

Deadline to submit application materials: MM/DD/YYYY