



Princeton
Internships in
Civic
Service

PICS 2010 Internship Description

Organization Name: Mercer Street Friends Food Bank

Internship Location: 824 Silvia Street, Ewing NJ 08628

Required Dates: Yes **No** If yes, internship must start on: _____ and end on _____ or
must include the period:

Housing Will Be Available to Intern: Yes **No** If yes, housing will be free: or housing
will cost the student:

Expected working schedule for this internship:

Start Time: 9:00 am End Time: 5:00 pm
Lunch break: ½ hour (duration) flexible (specific time, if applicable)

Additional Information, if necessary: N/A
(Please indicate if any of the preparation work will take place outside of the regular work schedule)

Organization Description

Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size etc. Please also explain the benefit that will be derived by your organization by sponsoring a Princeton intern.

Mercer Street Friends (MSF) is a direct social service provider fostering dignity and self-respect among the poor, the sick and the dispossessed of all ages. Founded by Quaker families, today we provide for basic human needs through the provision of education, job training, child care and after school programs, food, counseling, nursing, in-home aid, and family support programs that encourage physical, social and spiritual wholeness.

The Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, through its programs and services, reduces the incidence and duration of hunger among residents of Mercer County. The Food Bank distributes food donated by the food industry, the federal commodities program -The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP/USDA), the New Jersey State Food Purchase Program (SFPP), community food drives and New Jersey farmers to a network of food pantries and on-site feeding programs that collectively feed over 20,000 people each month. We will distribute over 2 million pounds of food in 2009.

Princeton Internships in Civic Service is administered by the
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12 Stockton Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
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While providing for the needs of our neighbors is foremost, there is a strong recognition throughout the agency that, sometimes, direct social service is not enough. Thus, Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, through its Nutrition Education and Advocacy Programs, works to impact the member agency and food recipient's knowledge of nutrition and wellness as well as monitor national, state and local policy. This helps the public and our government representatives to recognize that good social policy benefits us all.

By educating and advocating to ensure a basic safety net of nutrition programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-food stamps), School Breakfast and Lunch, WIC and other supportive services; increasing food accessibility, availability, affordability and healthy eating knowledge; and measuring the incidence of hunger locally, Mercer Street Friends is following the Quaker imperative to "speak truth to power."

Mercer Street Friends will benefit by sponsoring a Princeton Intern. The intern will be a welcome addition to our staff and will contribute to daily operations, developing and/or expanding programs, publications, surveys and data collection systems. Food Bank projects, some short and some long-term, will be completed in a more timely fashion with the assistance of an intern. Class of '69 interns bring commitment, energy and fresh new ideas which translate into staff and organizational enthusiasm and growth.

Internship Description

Describe in detail the work or project an intern will do; please be as specific as possible. Please also explain the benefit that a student will obtain by interning with your organization.

A ten-week summer experience with the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, the regional food bank, whose mission is to alleviate hunger through food distribution, nutrition education and assistance, and advocacy will have the intern working on simultaneous projects to improve food security in Mercer County.

- Develop and update client and emergency provider surveys and data collection tools. This information will be used for grant writing and advocacy.
- Research and design publications on nutrition education and assistance programs for clients and emergency providers.
- Conduct research and write position papers on anti-hunger, nutrition and anti-poverty issues for dissemination to legislators, policy makers and the press.
- Participate in developing and updating nutrition education programs.
- Assist in daily operations and weekly food distribution activities.

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The above projects as well as everyday activities at the food bank will provide the student with insight into the environment of social service agencies in Greater Mercer County and beyond. The student will learn about specific federal, state and locally funded programs that benefit the poor with special emphasis on hunger programs. The Food Bank provides a unique environment that develops communication skills by exposing the intern to a variety of population groups. Interpersonal skills are developed by interacting with the public, food bank staff, volunteers, the media, government officials and food bank member agencies and their representatives. Time management skills are utilized daily.

Opportunities are made available for the intern to learn about and be involved with timely issues and projects which may include but are not limited to: nutrition education programs, public policy and advocacy, and outreach projects within the framework of the food bank and its role in the community.

Intern Qualifications

Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern.

He or she should have the ability to conduct community outreach, respond well to the public, good computer skills (especially Word and Excel), ability to analyze data and design client survey tools. Flexibility and a willingness to assist with a variety of tasks are essential as the daily challenges at the Food Bank can be varied and unpredictable. A background and/or interest in sociology, public health, nutrition and wellness, the sciences, policy analysis or governmental studies would be useful.

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