

**Mercer Street Friends Food Bank
Ewing, NJ**

1 Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size, etc.

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, clothing, counseling, recovery, nursing, in-home aid, and family support programs that encourage physical, social and spiritual wholeness. The Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, our region's 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 18,000 people each month. In the past 19 years, we have distributed over 17.4 million pounds of food.

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 Program, 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 should help 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 food stamps 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."

2 Describe **in detail** the work or project an intern will do, **please be as specific as possible**.

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.

- ❑ Conduct and update client and emergency provider survey. Collect demographic data on clients requesting food assistance.
- ❑ Research and design handouts 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 (e.g. federal nutrition assistance programs, TANF, housing, health, and wages) for dissemination to legislators, policy makers and the press.
- ❑ Participate in Nutrition Education Programs.

3 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, ability to analyze data and design client survey tools. A background in sociology, the sciences, policy analysis or governmental studies would be useful.

There are required dates for this internship. Internship must start on _____ and end on _____ or most include the period _____.

Start and end dates for the internship are flexible.

The expected working schedule for this internship:

Begin 9 a.m. End 5 p.m.

Lunch break: Length 30 minutes specific time N/A