Food Insecurity in Appalachia: Helping the Hungry

Trinity’s Table Feeding Kitchen, Manna Meal, Covenant House Food Pantry
Charleston, West Virginia

Mission Statement: Methods to eliminate food insecurity are many. In this partnership, three non-profit entities will work together to insure that our neighbors do not go hungry. The three groups have different missions: a once-a-week dinner, morning and noon meals, and grocery supplements for individuals and families. Together, we are tackling poverty from a grass-roots approach.

Internship Title: Hunger Advocate
Responsibilities/Projects:

• Trinity’s Table
This Sunday night meal provides 500-600 meals each week. Located a block from the state’s capitol, the dinner is prepared and served by volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church and others in the community. The Shepherd Intern would be asked to do the following:

1. During a Sunday meal, visit with our guests and ask them their opinions on the meals and the process -- and share that information with the committee.
2. Help prepare and serve a meal with the other volunteers. Participate in committee meetings when possible.
3. Help with food pick-up from the Food Bank.
4. Help update organization's communications (set up a Facebook Page, update brochure).

• Manna Meal
This soup kitchen serves breakfast and lunch seven days a week to approximately 400 people. Located in downtown Charleston, the meals are prepared by a paid staff (many who have come in as guests and who have been trained to work in the kitchen by Manna Meal). The Shepherd Intern would be asked to do the following:

1. Assist the staff with pick-up and delivery of food from local grocery and restaurants.
2. Assist the director and marketing director with ongoing and new projects in fundraising and planning.
3. Assist in food preparation and serving. Assist in the Manna Meal Community Garden.

• Covenant House Food Pantry
Staffed by volunteers, families and individuals can “shop” in this choice pantry for personal selections for supplemental groceries twice a month. The pantry is open weekdays and clients are referred by the Covenant House Drop-In Center. The Shepherd Intern would be asked to do the following:
1. Visit the pantry as a guest (similar to Task A for Trinity’s Table). Give feedback to staff regarding the experience.
2. Assist with twice-monthly shopping for the pantry. Volunteers visit discount food stores and purchase between $500-$1,000 in groceries. The intern would help with food choices as well as help with pick-up and delivery of food.
3. Work in the “choice” pantry, assisting clients with food selection. Work with Covenant House intake coordinator to determine eligibility of clients.

Qualifications:

We need an intern who has compassion for those who are in need and a willingness to be a self-starter. Volunteers at each entity think on their feet, deal with problems by themselves while knowing they have the backing and knowledge of the committee/staff/coordinators. While it seems like knowledge of food preparation is necessary, it is not! Our intern will be dealing one-on-one with those who are in need of a meal, in need of groceries, and in need of a friendly face. Each of the programs is proud of the personal relationships built with guests and clients.

Organization and observation skills are a must. We want an intern who is willing to look at each program and help make improvements in the organization of the system and delivery of the product.

There is no language requirement.

Working Conditions:

In light of the “multi-agency” nature of the internship, the Shepherd Intern will work in a variety of places. The agencies will coordinate a schedule that best suits the intern and the agencies. A possible schedule might be:

Tuesday-Thursday mornings: work with Manna Meal.

Tuesday-Thursday afternoons: work with Covenant House Food Pantry.

Friday and Saturday -- off
Sundays -- work for Trinity’s Table.
Changes can be made according to need.

On-site Supervisor/Mentor:

Sara Busse
Coordinator, Trinity’s Table
Volunteer, Manna Meal, Covenant House Food Pantry sjbusse@gmail.com
304-539-4345
1990 Olympus Road
Charleston, WV 25314

Additional contacts:

If more information is needed:

Jean Simpson
Director, Manna Meal 304-345-7121 jsmannmeal@wirefire.com

Robin Snyder
Coordinator, Covenant House Food Pantry 304-993-4734 robinsnyder511@frontier.com

Mentorship Plan:

The on-site supervisor/mentor would work closely with the Shepherd Intern to assure that both the intern and the agencies are satisfied. The first week of the internship would be spent visiting each of the sites with the supervisor, meeting the site-coordinators, discussing needs and expectations.

Each week, the supervisor/mentor will meet with the Shepherd Intern to talk about problems and concerns as well as to discuss the experiences in each agency.
Supervisors at each agency will be available at any time, and the intern will have cell numbers of each supervisor as well as daily contact.

Preparation:


Does the intern need to provide her own transportation?
Yes, a car is required. A mileage stipend is available.