



Semester/Year: Summer & Fall, 2008

Number of Open Positions: 6

Volunteer Job Description – Practicum Student

Request Date: April 2, 2008 **Target fill date:** June/September 2008
Job Title: Social Work Practicum Student

Objective: Assist interdisciplinary teams in providing services to immigrants and refugees.

Department: Varies, all within the Individuals and Families Division

Volunteer Supervisor: Africa team: [Lara Fallon](#), MSW or [Suzanne LeLaurin](#), LCSW
East Asia team: [Kathy Tucker](#), MSW or [Erin Gifford](#), MSW
Europe & Central Asia team: [Lara Fallon](#), MSW
Near East & South Asia: [P. Ariel Burgess](#), MSW or [Erin Gifford](#), MSW

Location: International Institute office, 3654 S. Grand, St. Louis 63118

Time commitment: 10-30 hours/week for one semester.

Responsibilities: Assigned to ethnic-specific interdisciplinary team with staff from case management, education, employment, social work, therapy, and elderly units. Actual duties will vary depending on client needs, but may include: (1) orienting newly arrived refugees to their environment and the community, e.g. apartment, grocery stores, bus training, accessing health care; (2) assistance in applying for government sponsored and other benefits; (3) one-on-one and/or group life skills development, e.g. budgeting, household maintenance, communicating with schools; (4) helping clients prepare for job interviews, citizenship tests; (5) family/personal crisis intervention.

Qualifications:

- BSW or foundation-level MSW students.
- Prefer students with access to car (mileage reimbursement provided).
- Prefer hours to include Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons due to meeting schedules.
- If multilingual or experience with particular ethnic population, please state prior experience & skills.

Training Requirements:

- Volunteer orientation before beginning.
- Background checks must be completed before client contact.
- Other specific training will be provided by supervisor based on tasks.

Benefits to Volunteer:

- Develop and hone skills in case management.
- Learn what community resources are available and how to link clients to them.
- Strengthen interpersonal skills as part of multi-disciplinary work team.
- Hone non-verbal skills in establishing trusting and effective relationships with limited English-speaking clients.