

### MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS

## SOCIAL SERVICES POSITIONS frequently asked questions

#### WHAT IS MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS?

Mercy Volunteer Corps promotes social change by placing and supporting volunteers for one year of service with people who are poor and marginalized in the U.S. and South America. Volunteers work in education, healthcare, and social services while living together in a community and growing spiritually.

#### WHERE DO MERCY VOLUNTEERS SERVE?

Mercy Volunteers serve a one year term in one of ten different service cities in the U.S. and in Georgetown, Guyana, South America. U.S. cities include Baltimore, MD; Cincinnati, Ohio; Detroit, MI; Philadelphia, PA; Pittsburgh, PA; Sacramento, CA; San Francisco, CA; Savannah, GA; New York, NY; and St. Michaels, AZ.

#### WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN SOCIAL SERVICES THROUGH MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS?

MVC provides multiple volunteer opportunities in the social services field from working with people currently experiencing homelessness to helping resettle refugees. In recent years, Mercy Volunteers have worked in positions like case manager in Philadelphia, service center coordinator in Sacramento, and senior services specialist in Cincinnati.

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES FIELD?

Mercy Volunteer Corps provides housing, transportation, health insurance, and monthly stipends. Volunteers also receive student loan deferment and discounts on graduate school.

#### WHY SHOULD MY STUDENTS SPEND A YEAR VOLUNTEERING BEFORE COMMITTING TO A FULL-TIME POSITION?

Mercy Volunteers serving in the social services field gain professional experience at reputable organizations across the U.S. and South America. Each of these positions is supported by a site supervisor who ensures that our volunteer is gaining professional experience and is fully utilizing their skills and training at their service site. After their year of service, a significant number of our volunteers are offered full-time positions at their service sites!

#### HOW WILL I SUPPORT MYSELF AS A VOLUNTEER?

Mercy Volunteers receive housing, transportation, food and personal stipends, health insurance, and school loan deferment (if approved by lender).

#### WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION DEADLINES? HOW DO I APPLY?

All applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Priority is given to applications received by January 20. The final deadline for international placement applications is March 2 and for U.S placement is early July. Visit www.mercyvolunteers.org to request an application online or call our office at 215.641.5535.

# mercy volunteer corps YEAR OF SERVICE

\*Live with 3-6 volunteers in the US or South America

\*Serve in a professional placement with a site supervisor

\*Expenses like housing and transportation are covered

\*Volunteers receive a monthly stipend & attend 4 retreats

\*MVC provides health insurance & student loan deferment

\*Discounts for graduate school are available

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis www.mercyvolunteers.org/apply