

Service Learning Program Information for Students and Teachers



Program Overview

St. Anthony Foundation (SAF) is a Franciscan social service agency, located in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco, serving individuals and families in need of basic human services. Founded in 1950 by Franciscan Friar Alfred Boeddeker, St. Anthony Dining Room was established to provide an atmosphere that welcomed low-income and homeless people with dignity and respect.

Student teaching an art workshop



In response to the growing needs of our guests, St. Anthony's programs now include: St. Anthony Dining Room, St. Anthony Free Medical Clinic, Social Work Center, Madonna Residence and Senior Outreach and Support Services, Marian Residence for Women (shelter and transitional housing program), St. Anthony Farm, Father Alfred Center (drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs), Clothing and Furniture Program, Employment and Learning Center, and Justice Education and Advocacy Program.

SAF's service-learning program is a part of its Justice Education and Advocacy Program and students working with the Foundation will assist our staff in meeting

the needs of those who come to us not only for services, but also for a listening ear and a heart filled with compassion. Service-learners are an integral part of the Foundation's mission "to feed, heal, clothe, shelter, lift the spirit of those in need and create a society in which all persons flourish."

St. Anthony Foundation encourages service-learners to consider their placement with the Foundation as an opportunity to learn, first hand, how individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness are affected by and view everyday social issues. In addition, service-learning students will have an opportunity to enhance their understanding of information taught in the classroom by observing, listening and engaging in dialogue with community members who make use of our services.

Service-learning positions are dependent not only on the desire of the prospective student, but equally on the needs of St. Anthony Foundation and the availability of appropriate staff to provide supervision. While we may already have projects that we are in need of assistance with, your ideas, comments and suggestions are invited. We hope that your experience with us will not only contribute to your classroom learning but also to the partnership between faculty, student and community organizations.

Requirements:

Prior to recommending students to the Foundation, teachers/faculty are encouraged to contact the Education Outreach Coordinator to assess SAF program needs and relevancy to their course material. Having the opportunity to meet teachers/faculty members is especially important in helping to make appropriate student placements and can save students, teachers and the Foundation considerable time and effort throughout the duration of the service-learning partnership.

Students must attend a service-learning orientation. Orientations provide service-learners with information about the programs, history and services of St. Anthony Foundation and explain guidelines and expectations for students participating in SAF's service-learning program. Additional trainings/activities (such as a neighborhood tour or workshops on issues relevant to course/project content) may be arranged based on student, faculty or organizational need.

Students must complete a final evaluation of their service-learning experience and participate in an end of term presentation. Final presentations allow students to share their service-learning experience with fellow classmates, SAF and school staff as well as invited guests. Final presentations are also a valuable assessment tool for SAF staff and faculty/teachers.

Partner Courses

The Foundation offers a wide array of social and community services and can match service-learning students from various disciplines. Past partnerships include undergraduate and graduate students from the following fields: Computer Science, Business Administration, Visual Arts, Nursing, Communications, Theology, Urban Studies and Sociology.

Partner Schools & Universities

Some of the schools and universities that have partnered with St. Anthony Foundation's service-learning program include:

City College of San Francisco
De La Salle High School
San Francisco State University
Santa Clara University
St. Mary's College of California
Stanford University

Stuart Hall High School
St. Ignatius College Prep
The Urban School of San Francisco
University High School
University of California, Berkeley
University of San Francisco

Knowledge & Skills Gained

Service-learners will have the opportunity to serve in one or more of St. Anthony Foundation's 12 programs. By providing students with multiple service opportunities we hope students will leave the Foundation with a better understanding of some of the following issues: poverty, homelessness, affordable housing, affordable healthcare, fair wages, Catholic Social Teaching, addictive illness and recovery, issues affecting seniors, women experiencing homelessness, educational divide between rich and poor, non-profit organization systems, community medicine and more.

Each service-learning experience is unique and students will use their experience and classroom lessons to compliment their understanding of the social issues addressed by SAF.

Reflection and Assessment

As part of their service-learning program, students are expected to participate in reflection activities sponsored by their course instructor and/or St. Anthony Foundation. Throughout their experience at St. Anthony Foundation, students will be asked to complete at least one reflection exercise with the Foundation. Students are invited to submit copies of their reflection journals, papers/articles to the Education Outreach Coordinator- we are interested in hearing about your learning experience as much as your teachers are!

Completed Service-learning Projects

Some of the projects completed by service-learning students are:

- 1) Creation of a web based 18-week A+ Programming Certification Course for use by our Employment Program and Learning Center to assist clients with job training readiness.
- 2) Teaching weekly art workshops for clients in our Learning Center.
- 3) Business and organizational analysis of St. Anthony's Dining Room.
- 4) Creation of a short film that can be used to educate high school students about the work of the Foundation.
- 5) Creation of "Living Wage-opoly,"- an education tool based on the game Monopoly, that teaches younger students about the cost of living in the Bay Area and the importance of fair wages.

Get Involved!

St. Anthony Foundation is always looking to create and enhance service-learning partnerships with schools and universities in the Bay Area. If you are interested in working with the Foundation to restore health, hope and human dignity, please contact:

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Communications student explaining her project