

## Partners in the Chicago Food System Internship Program, Summer 2025



### St. Thomas Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen/Production Gardens

Summary: Mary, Mother of God Parish is located on the northside of Chicago in the Uptown/Andersonville neighborhood and is comprised of three church campuses (St. Thomas of Canterbury, St. Ita, St. Gregory). The parish houses food production spaces at St Thomas and St Gregory, as well as the St. Thomas food pantry and soup kitchen program which aim to provide supplemental food for local residents in need.

#### Position Objectives :

- Assist staff with food production and maintenance in garden plot areas
- Assist with St. Thomas food pantry and soup kitchen operations
- Engage with community members and stakeholders to improve community involvement

#### Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Participate in garden maintenance and ongoing production including weeding, planting, seeding, irrigation, pest control, and pruning.
- Participate in the weekly harvest and distribution of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers.
- Participate in monthly team meetings with staff
- Engage with staff, volunteers, and visitors respectfully and with a positive and hospitable attitude

Internship period: May – August, 2025

Internship location: St. Thomas of Canterbury Food Distribution Center (2827 N. Kenmore) and St Gregory the Great Parish (5545 N. Paulina)

#### Position Hours/Scheduling:

- 140 hours total, ~10-12 hours/week
- Scheduling is flexible, based on intern's availability but will require availability on either Mondays or Thursdays from 8:30a-12p for the Food Pantry and occasional Tuesday or Friday afternoons/evening (2pm-6pm) for the Soup Kitchen

Qualifications/Requirements/Eligibility/Skills:

- Physical requirements include some heavy lifting, and outdoor field work for longer durations
- Comfortable working independently and without direct oversight
- Strong communication skills and interest in fostering a positive community environment
- Reliable and consistently committed to predetermined schedule
- Basic understanding and/or experience in small scale food production in the Midwest region, irrigation, etc.

Learning Goals/Learning Outcomes:

- Upon completion, students will have a better understanding of programs that build food sovereignty and food access to underserved and vulnerable populations. Interns will also increase skills and knowledge of small-scale food production and maintenance. Engagement and collaboration with staff, volunteers, and stakeholders will improve the students ability to work among diverse groups of people from different backgrounds.

Compensation:

- All students will be compensated on an hourly basis and will receive a paycheck every two weeks. Students will be compensated at \$16.20/hour for up to 140 hours maximum.

Time off Policy:

- Time off and missing work due to illness or other conflicts need to be discussed and agreed upon before the Internship period between the Supervisor and student. In the event that a student is absent without prior communication with the Supervisor for an excessive amount of days, the student may be terminated from the position.

: