Job Title: Community Garden Summer Intern  
Position Type: Intern-Unpaid  
Program: EZRA’s Community Garden, Health and Nutrition  
Number of Openings: 1  
Compensation Details: Unpaid  
Hours: 8-15 hours a week  
Internship Duration: 12 weeks  
Position Supervisor: Health Programming and Pantry Coordinator  

Internship Learning Goals: Intern will work on all aspects of maintaining a plot in an urban community garden. The intern will serve as the liaison between the work of the community garden and EZRA’s work to address food insecurity on the North side of Chicago by teaching self-sustaining skills for people who have limited access to resources. The intern will facilitate and manage gardening days and food justice workshops for staff, volunteers and clients of EZRA Multi-Service Center and community partners.  

Job Function: Strong interest and/or knowledge in gardening, community access to healthy food and a desire to work with low income and vulnerable populations  

Job Description:  

Agency Description: The EZRA Multi-Service Center is a community-based social service agency serving residents of the Edgewater, Uptown, Lakeview and Rogers Park communities. Services are provided to alleviate homelessness, hunger, unemployment, and other self-sufficiency barriers. At EZRA, our communal values dictate that we provide the resources necessary to help people live with dignity. EZRA, the Hebrew word for Help, is committed to “Tikkun Olam” and works to repair the world by building professional and compassionate interventions in response to human suffering.  

Program Description: EZRA’s community garden, shared with Mercy Housing Lakefront, provides natural and nutritious, fresh fruits and vegetables to those who have limited access to resources and are experiencing food insecurity. The Community Garden team collaborates with agency partners, participants and volunteers. The experience of gardening in addition to educational seminars provides opportunities for learning self-sustaining skills. Participants in the garden also advocate for expansion of community gardens, local eating and the availability of fresh produce.
Tasks:

Community Garden

1. Organize client and community participation in planning, planting, maintaining, harvesting, and distributing produce.
2. Engage new clients to be part of the garden; outreach to current EZRA clients and community partners
3. Work with Mercy Housing staff to coordinate and planning gardening meetings to check progress;
4. Keep a log of the garden’s progress
5. Recruiting and working with EZRA volunteers who want to visit the garden
6. Learn and teach basic gardening techniques during garden work days
7. Research seasonal healthy meals and recipes for produce from garden
8. Data Entry: Log all attendance records for clients into online database

Food Justice and Food Access Programming

1. Plan and facilitate at least one food justice related workshop for clients
2. Sorting, cleaning and stocking produce and shelf-stable items in EZRA’s food pantry

Qualifications:

- Desire to work with low-income and vulnerable populations, specifically individuals with disabilities and mental illness
- Strong desire to work for an agency with an urban Jewish social justice agenda
- Comfortable working in a busy, urban environment
- Strong interest and/or knowledge in gardening, and community access to healthy food
- Ability to actively participate in gardening (lifting, coordinating client walking and other physical activities)
- Self-starter
- Ability to work independently and on a team
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Good organizational and detail skills
- Excellent Computer Skills (Microsoft Office and web-based database)

Resume Receipt:
Please email resume, cover letter and one reference to:
Sarah Greenberg
Program and Community Outreach Manager
EZRA Multi-Service Center
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