Center of Life
Family Engagement Internship

BASW or First Year MSW Students

Internship Overview:

Center of Life (COL) is a community empowerment organization located in Greater Hazelwood. Our mission is to provide youth and families with the life skills, education, training, and resources necessary to be strong and to make their communities strong. Our after school programs focus on music & arts, athletics, and education. At COL we believe everything is about people.

Center of Life looks at the whole child through our family engagement & family strengthening initiatives. We recognize that children are nestled in families, communities, and schools, yet families have the greatest influence in their children’s lives because parents are a child’s first teacher. Therefore, to holistically serve the youth in our programming, we must also address the issues confronting their families. The Family Engagement Intern will assist our Family & Outreach Specialist in supporting the parents & families within COL programming by helping to provide families with the tools and resources they need to better support themselves and become (or remain) active stewards in their child’s success. The Family Engagement Intern will also work with the Family & Outreach Specialist to organize and facilitate events, gatherings, and workshops that help to strengthen families. For more information, visit: http://centeroflife.net/family-engagement/

Responsibilities of the Family Engagement Intern may include:

• Assisting in improving communication with families in our programs & reaching out to new families
• Referring families to appropriate community, state, and national resources such as: food, housing, employment, mental health, utility assistance, etc.
• Planning & organizing our annual Coat & Toy Give Away, & Turkey Give away with the Family & Outreach Specialist
• Administering & tracking the weekly nutrition bags given out to students to help combat weekend hunger
• Accompanying Family & Outreach Specialist on informal home visits
• Assisting in the development of an agency wide home visiting strategy
• Utilizing data from the 2016 Family Engagement Survey to begin implement changes within our current family engagement practices.
• Organizing & facilitating monthly parent & guardian gatherings alongside the Family & Outreach Specialist
• Networking and/or establishing partnerships with other family strengthening professionals to further advance our mission
• Attending weekly staff meetings and trainings with the Family & Outreach Specialist
• Documenting & summarizing insights, concerns, & observations from work with families
• Researching new findings on parenting, family engagement & family strengthening.

Minimum Qualifications:

• Flexible, Eager to learn from the families we serve, Positive attitude, Pursuing a degree in social work
• ACT 33/34 Clearances

Revised: 3/15/2016