

**Congregation Casework Intern: Unpaid Internship
Access of West Michigan**

For Fall Semester 2020 or Spring Semester 2021 (or full school year Social Work internship)

Who we are:

Celebrating the activity of God in our midst, the mission of Access is to strengthen and develop wholistic solutions to poverty by cultivating equitable systems through education and collaboration. Over the past five years, Access has reframed our approach to poverty by focusing on prevention through systems change. Our three initiatives are Good Food Systems, Congregational Connections, and Poverty Education. The Good Food System initiative focuses on growing a local food system that is that is fair, green, healthy, and affordable for all. Through Congregational Connections, Access connects the faith-based community to issues of social justice and stewardship within benevolence outreach. Poverty Education exists to overcome misconceptions of poverty and motivate people to become involved in activities that promote justice in our communities, as well as provide economic opportunities for workshop staffers.

Summary:

This intern will be working with the Access casework team, responding to community needs via requests from area congregation. This includes helping link individuals with appropriate resources, acting as the line of communication between congregations and agencies, and educating congregations on best practices for community outreach and community development.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

- Casework which includes data entry, resource referrals, and phone calls with clients and service providers (utility companies, landlords)
- Communication with other agencies
- Participate in community meetings regarding resources in the community and gaps in services
- Attend congregational visits
- Assist in the building of neighborhood collaboratives and networks – community organizing
- Assist in facilitating trainings and workshops
- Assisting other Access programs as needed

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Interest is working in a faith-based ecumenical ministry
- Sensitivity and interest in working with low-income clients
- Professional written and verbal communication
- Ability to multi-task and solve problems creatively.

Think you are a great fit for us? Send your cover letter and resume to niki@accessofwestmichigan.org