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Ascentria Care Alliance - Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program

<http://www.ascentria.org/refugee-youth>

Staff Contact:

Kristen Simmarano

ksimmarano@ascentria.org

774-243-3065 (office phone)

774-437-8895 (work cell)

11 Shattuck Street, Worcester MA 01605

Organization Description:

Ascentria Care Alliance is one of the largest social service organizations in New England. Ascentria serves children, youth and families; persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness and deafness; persons who are economically disadvantaged; refugees, including unaccompanied refugee minors; and older adults. Unaccompanied Refugee Minors are children under the age of 18 who are resettled alone in the United States, without a parent, relative, or other responsible adult to take care of them. The URM program is a long-term foster care program that serves youth with comprehensive services designed to assist with their resettlement and adjustment to their new culture, provide for them while they pursue educational goals, and prepare them for eventual independence. Services are tailored to the needs of refugee youth, blending their cultural identity with their new American environment.

CBL Opportunities:

Afterschool Tutoring Program

Meeting once a week, CBL volunteers provide homework help, English language tutoring, Spanish grammar and writing tutoring, and mentorship to the Ascentria youth. The tutoring program meets on **Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm** at the Ascentria office. The program needs approximately 10 tutors to work with Spanish-speaking adolescents. Volunteers must be comfortable conversing and writing in Spanish and English. Ascentria clients have varying levels of English, education, and literacy. Ascentria requires a high level of commitment and confidentiality regarding our clients. An outgoing personality will also be useful in this role in order to engage your partner effectively. An application and CORI background check are required and volunteers must attend an orientation session before beginning. Ascentria staff will review applications and select volunteers based on the needs of our clients.

One on One Mentorship Program

Ascentria is seeking committed volunteers to act as mentors to individual clients. Mentors will meet with their mentees biweekly at Holy Cross (exact location TBD) to provide friendly support, assistance in completing Independent Living Skills work, English conversation, and be a positive role model. Mentors and mentees will first meet in a large group and then break off into pairs during the rest of the time. Mentors will then gather at the end of each session for a brief reflection and debrief. Student volunteers will be in close communication with the Ascentria caseworkers responsible for assigned client to communicate the needs of client. Volunteers must assume a great deal of initiative and commitment. An application, CORI background check and initial meeting are required before a volunteer is selected and matched with a client. This opportunity is open to 5-10 volunteers. **Volunteers are required to meet with a client twice a month (Thursdays from 4-7p) and commit to the client for two semesters (one full school year).** Competent Spanish is a requirement.

Pre-Service Requirements: Application Form, CORI, Orientation

Volunteers needed: 15-20