SERVICES PROVIDED:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church CaN (Churches as Neighborhoods) Center is dedicated to serving the Lansing neighborhood and the Salem community. Four of the programs sponsored by the center are:

1. La Casita/Little House Neighborhood center is providing information and resources for the neighborhood through:
   - Dispensing referral information on obtaining health insurance and services in partnership with Mano & Mano.
   - Providing a site for mental health classes and counseling in partnership with Northwest Human Services and Catholic Community Services.
   - Partnering with other community agencies to provide parenting classes.
   - Operating a children’s library that is currently open Thursdays and Saturdays from 10-2.
   - Overseeing reading programs for children.
   - Offering a community meeting place.
   - Conducting summer programs for children that include literacy, nutrition and gardening in Partnership with the Marion Polk Food Share.

2. Foster Parents Night Out is a monthly respite program for foster parents. Families referred by the Department of Human Services can leave their children in a safe organized program for 3 hours each month.

3. Holy Cross CaN Center partners with Interfaith Hospitality Network to provide homeless families with meals and a safe place to sleep approximately 1 week each quarter.

4. Washington Elementary School is always in need of mentors, reading buddies and classroom aides. Holy Cross CaN center partners with them to provide these services.

ROLE OF PRACTICUM STUDENT:

Student would be expected to work 12-22 hours a week depending on college requirements and availability. The student would be under the supervision of Holy Cross Lutheran Church Lay Coordinator and CaN Center Director.

1. At La Casita, the student would be involved in helping run the library. Duties may include reading a story to a morning and afternoon Community Action Head Start class,
shelving books, preparing for reading sessions, oversee preschool students in the computer lab, conducting literacy games and library maintenance.

2. The 2nd Saturday of each month the practicum student will be expected to participate in Foster Parents’ Night. He/she could be involved in contacting parents, scheduling activities, supervising kids, assisting the kitchen staff in preparing the meal, and cleaning up.

3. As a Washington Elementary volunteer, the practicum student would serve as a mentor, reading buddy, or classroom aide. In addition to the volunteer time, the student will assist the director in scheduling volunteers and recording and reporting volunteer hours.

4. Participating in Holy Cross’s rotation of Interfaith Hospitality Network the practicum student would assist the CaN director in procuring and scheduling volunteers, preparing and serving meals to the guest families, planning and conducting children’s activities, and recording and reporting volunteer hours.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICUM STUDENT:

- Enjoy working with students of all ages.
- Ability and willingness to interact with the children in a positive way that will encourage them to develop a desire to read, learn, and become productive citizens.
- Ability to supervise children and provide a safe environment.
- Ability to learn and willingness to participate in routine library and administrative tasks and processes.
- Willingness to learn appropriate phone etiquette, scheduling and recording techniques.
- Ability and willingness to interact courteously and thoughtfully with people regardless of their ability, age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic level.
- Ability to accept supervision and constructive criticism.
- Willingness to work as a contributing member of the CaN center team.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK:

All volunteers at La Casita/Little House, Holy Cross Church and Washington Elementary are required to complete a background check, which La Casita will pay for.

As of April 15, 2011, practicum sites that use the Department of Human Services Background Check Unit will now conduct a weighing test and fitness determination when an individual has been identified as the perpetrator of abuse in certain cases of sexual abuse, physical abuse or financial exploitation. The Background Check Unit will specifically consider the most serious cases of abuse reported and substantiated from January 1, 2010, forward.

Updated 2/18/2014