PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Mano a Mano Family Center’s Youth Empowerment Project (Y.E.P.) works to make opportunities available in this community for youth, ages 12-19, to make healthy choices, as that is the definition of a healthy community.

The mission of our organization is to educate our Latino and low income clients to become self-sufficient and active contributors to the wellbeing of their community. The goal of all of our programs and services is to support the development of safe, healthy, nurturing and strong families and communities. We are the oldest Latino-led community organization in the Salem-Keizer area. 75% of our total clients are Latinos, and about 65% of all clients are female. 88% of all our clients are low income.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

The Y.E.P. currently offers up to eight hours weekly of structured and unstructured hours after-school at our NE Salem Drop-in Center. It is a safe place supervised by staff, interns and volunteers. The structured activities are based on curricula that feature best practices, and evidenced-based or promising approaches to youth development. These curricula are culturally-appropriate, and address issues such as teen pregnancy, violence/bullying prevention, self-esteem, leadership development, service learning, cultural identity, academic success and work readiness, utilizing such theories as Popular Education. The unstructured hours include academic support (tutoring, scholarship search, application), and a chance to socialize and develop positive connections with peers, older youth and adults.

Our long term vision is to develop a comprehensive wraparound youth program that addresses the following areas:

- Personal Growth, Health and Wellness
- Building Resiliency
- Leadership Development
- Academic Success
- Career Awareness
- Community Involvement
- Cultural Awareness
- Public Policy, Leadership and Civic Engagement
- Financial Literacy

Updated 10/31/2012
ROLE OF THE PRACTICUM STUDENT:

- Assist in supervising and working with youth during both structured and unstructured activities, such as workshops, reading/study time, group activities, service projects, etc.
- Assist with the planning and implementation of after-school activities and experiences, in support of staff and as part of a team.
- Provide one-on-one attention to youth as suggested by staff and assisting with other program tasks.
- Practice appropriate role model behavior.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Submit to a Criminal History Check.
- Commit to work two terms
- Ability to work with youth who may come from challenging upbringings
- Ability to follow verbal and or written instructions
- Demonstrate personal initiative and willingness to learn
- Being bicultural in Spanish, and in the Latino culture, is preferred because of the population we work with, but not required
- Being bilingual in Spanish and English is required.

A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK, DRUG SCREENING, AND TB TEST IS REQUIRED OF ALL INTERN/PRACTICUM STUDENTS.

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.