PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

HOME’s mission is to provide a safe, supportive environment where Salem’s at-risk and homeless youth may have their immediate needs met as well as have positive opportunities to reconnect with their community. This is done through our continuum of care and community partnerships. Programs include (1) Runaway & Homeless Youth, (2) Day Shelter, and (3) Youth Empowerment Program.

PRACTICUM STUDENT DUTIES:

- Establish a relationship and rapport with youth who frequent the center.
- Engage youth in positive activities and discussions.
- Monitor youth behavior and uphold HOME policies with the goal of, whenever possible, having youth make the choice of changing behavior.
- Complete Intake procedure with new youth.
- Provide information and referrals to youth.
- Provide skill building for youth through role modeling and activities.
- Assist with general center duties. This includes but is not limited to front desk duties, data entry, and serving meals.
- Direct or assist with special projects as needed or assigned. Examples include facilitating groups and workshops, going on Street Outreach, and assisting with case management.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

- Experience working with disenfranchised youth is preferred.
- Ability to relate effectively with at-risk adolescents in a non-judgmental and empathetic manner.
- Must have effective communication skills.
- Ability to use appropriate conflict resolution skills.
- Must abide by agency and HOME policies and procedures.
- Must be at least 21 years of age and have the ability to maintain confidentiality as well as appropriate personal and professional boundaries.
- Ability to function in an informal, noisy environment.
- Outgoing personality who can take initiative and work independently.
- Successfully clear background check completed with the agency.
CRIMINAL HISTORY/BACKGROUND CHECK IS REQUIRED:

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.