SERVICES PROVIDED:

The Salvation Army Lighthouse Shelter's mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. We believe in meeting the needs of the whole person; including the physical, emotional, and spiritual. In 2012, The Salvation Army in Marion/Polk County sheltered 345 individuals in need. For over 125 years we have been feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and helping the disenfranchised, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with shelter, food, and other basic needs.

PRACTICUM/INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

The intern or practicum student will work with the Shelter Manager to develop a program that meets the needs of the student and serves The Salvation Army in a productive way. They will learn what skills are necessary to work with individuals experiencing multiple stressors and how The Salvation Army provides social services as a non-profit organization.

ROLE OF THE PRACTICUM/INTERN STUDENT:

- Screening and assessment to determine needs of individuals requesting shelter assistance.
- Becoming proficient with The Salvation Army's Social Services data base.
- Assisting clients with alternate sources of assistance when the Salvation Army is unable to help.
- Assisting other shelter support staff to meet the needs of clients in a shelter setting.
- Assisting to help manage daily needs of shelter operations.
- Assisting Shelter Manager with special projects.
- Clerical support.
- Gaining skills to work in a team setting.
REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICUM/INTERN STUDENTS:

- College course work congruent with social services in a non-profit organization.
- Ability to work as an interdependent team member.
- Ability to communicate well orally and in writing; good listening skills.
- Willingness to learn procedures for assisting clients.
- Understanding and compliance of keeping client information confidential.
- Successfully pass a background check and complete The Salvation Army's on-line child safety training course.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK:

Our Lighthouse Shelter program works with individual clients who are at various levels of need—this allows the student to gain skills that they desire for future work. As job opportunities open within our Social Service Department at The Salvation Army, interns and practicum students are encouraged to apply.

A CRIMINAL HISTORY 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.