Service Opportunities

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**Brief Organizational Background**

FNC was founded in 1906 as a way for the Philadelphia settlement houses to have a stronger, common voice in addressing the needs of the city. Today, FNC is still connected to the neighborhoods of our city and region and seeks to create diverse partnerships with neighborhood centers, other service agencies, government, educational institutions and other key stakeholders to create a positive, collective impact in those areas that are key to our mission, including food access, urban youth programming, services for returning citizens (prison re-entry), adult contextualized learning, parenting and workforce development.

**Range of Services (i.e. tutoring, discrete projects, workshops, research, etc)**

FNC currently provides the following services & programs:

- Teens 4 Good, the foundation of all of our youth programming, centers around our four urban farms. The program uses urban farming as the framework for teaching young people not only about healthy food production and nutrition, but also leadership development, marketing, business, social media, education and public speaking. Multiple programs with multiple partners.

- Contextualized Learning/Workforce Development. Currently, FNC partners with JEVS Human Services (Culinary Connections) and the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society (Roots to Reentry) to provide adult literacy and numeracy learning contextualized to specific career paths. Our success has been documented in a report published by Philadelphia Works, Inc.

- BEST Training. BEST provides professional development training primarily for persons in youth work, but also offers general courses for other social service professionals. Classes include our Advancing Youth Development Community of Practice series, Mining the Census, Youth Mental Health First Aid (with national certification), Legal Aspects of Youth Work, the WRAP Approach to Mental Health, and LGBTQ 101, 102 and 103 - a three-part series aimed at improving youth workers LGBTQ competencies (done in collaboration with The Attic Youth Center).

- Parent EmPowerment - parenting classes done in collaboration with programming at other regional agencies.
- Returning Citizens (Prison Reentry). In 2014, FNC convened a group of stakeholders in a collective impact model to work on improving services to those citizens coming out of prison. In the past two months, this group has merged with the City of Philadelphia's Reentry Coalition. FNC has worked jointly with the City of Philadelphia in creating a 5 year strategic plan and will serve as the co-backbone of this effort.
- Food Justice. FNC is a founding member of the Food Collaborative, seeking to improve metrics and evaluation in the production and distribution of fresh, healthy foods in Philadelphia.
- Fiscal Sponsorship. FNC is widening our efforts to provide services to emerging and smaller non-profits, providing varying levels of back office support around fiscal and other areas.

**Population served:** (i.e. demographics, age range, educational level, cultural background, etc.). Please include other relevant information.

FNC serves a diverse population centered mostly in Philadelphia's poorest neighborhoods. Our youth programming currently serves high school age youth, 81% African American, 11% Asian, 6% White, 1% Hispanic and 2% other. With expected new funding this summer, we will expand to middle school youth. Most of the youth served come from North Philadelphia neighborhoods. Our returning citizen population ranges in age from 22 - 56 and are 94% African American, 4% Hispanic and 2% White. The literacy level of this group has a wide range, from a low of 2nd grade equivalency to a high of 12th grade. (Our demographics change as programming starts and ends, based on current funding).

**Brief Description of Proposed Activity**

FNC is open to a myriad of possible activities. Activities could be as diverse as 1) working with either of our collective impact initiatives (food collaborative or reentry), especially around the creation of communication protocols and systems; 2) Assisting our farmers with creating and delivering programming to program youth and farm visitors (educational visitors range in age from preschool through senior citizens); 3) Helping create a marketing and education plan around our expanded Fiscal Sponsorship work; 4) Assist in the marketing and expansion of the BEST Training program; and 5) Working with our management team in creating a template for redefining FNC's image in the region (re-branding).

We also realize that our template for creating urban agriculture space and accompanying programming may also have implications as Temple works with the community around the campus. Our focus of urban farming with an emphasis on education helps motivate the community to eat healthier, grow their own food at home, take advantage of the availability of fresh produce year-round and provides hands-on opportunities for community members to work together, to see how to prepare nutritious fresh foods (and, see that nutritious can also be delicious), and helps reduce childhood obesity in these urban population centers.

**Main expectations of student interns (i.e. time commitment, frequency, duration,**

FNC would want to work with Temple to define the best way to utilize the talents and skills of the students. We have found that it works best when partnerships are customized in a way that best meets the needs of both partners and that predefining these roles can be counter-productive.
etc.). Please specify type of students required (undergraduate, graduate, & specific educational discipline if necessary).

| Benefit to Students | Fully engaged students would see first hand the challenges of non-profit work (from funding challenges to capacity challenges), would have the opportunity to work in a highly collaborative team with shared leadership roles, would have the opportunity to collaborate on shaping and defining our evolving programming and foci, would learn how to create realistic metrics that inform change and improvement, and would have the unique opportunity to work in an environment as a valued peer, not as an under-utilized and under-appreciated intern. |

| Benefit to Organization | This sort of collaboration increases our capacity, widens our lens and allows us to be more effective, quicker! We are a small, highly skilled team that welcomes persons with new ideas, a collaborative spirit and the desire to learn and contribute. As an example, our current social media intern came in as a volunteer to help us create a new website. He did this (and continues to do so) with great success, but in the process he became a vital, respected part of our team. We have been able to evolve his work into a part time paid position and he has helped FNC reshape our online image, he has worked with youth in our programs, both as a mentor to those entering the IT field and in helping them create a safe and productive online presence. Because of his successes here in helping us, we have been able to offer him a glowing recommendation, with specific examples of how he has made an impact. In return for what he has done for us - his work with us helped him gain entry into the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with a nearly full scholarship. It is hard to speak of the benefits to the students and to us as separate things. The benefit is intentionally mutual. |

| Service Location | Our main office is at 1528 Walnut Street, Suite 200. Our farms are in four locations - 8th & Poplar, Allegheny Avenue (at The Lighthouse sports fields), The Carousell House (across from the Please Touch Museum) and the Schuylkill Environmental Center on Hagys Mill Road. We currently do programming at The Linc High School, the Philadelphia Prison System and People’s Emergency Center (West Philadelphia). Sites vary as programs start and end. |
Materials/resources to student interns (i.e. curricula, library, IT, & other community resources)

The materials and resources available to our staff are fully extended to our interns. This includes a dedicated FNC email address, cloud access, etc.