



projecthealth NYC

Columbia

helping empower, advocate, and lead through health

“The world is calling; heal the world and in the process heal yourself, find the human in yourself by finding the citizen, the activist, the hero.”

– Tony Kushner

[volunteer application]

Fall 2009

i. about project health

Who We Are

Project HEALTH is a non-profit that mobilizes the nation's undergraduates to provide high-impact services to low-income families and, in the process, to transform our healthcare system into one that is more effective and more just. To learn more about our work, our vision, and more, visit www.projecthealth.org.

Project HEALTH believes that undergraduates have what it takes to make real change – for individual families and for our country's healthcare system. We are always seeking passionate, committed, social justice-minded students to join our movement.

What It Takes

All Project HEALTH volunteers bring great commitment, creativity, tenacity, and humility to their work with families. And, as members of a volunteer community on their campus, they continuously reflect on this work and develop their programs to achieve greater impact. Every volunteer in Project HEALTH:

- Commits to dedicate a minimum of six hours a week for at least one year. The majority of volunteers remain with Project HEALTH from the day they start until they graduate.
- Fulfills all program expectations. This includes participation in all training sessions (a prerequisite to serving for the academic year) and personal, client-centered engagement in all program activities as outlined in the application and communicated by program leaders.
- Participates in weekly Reflection Sessions and periodic campus events with fellow volunteers, to share best practices, discuss the intersection of health and poverty, learn from faculty and community members, develop new initiatives, and support each other in growing as leaders for change.
- Contributes to the development of the Project HEALTH programs and vision in whatever ways s/he is most interested in, whether it be engineering a program improvement, spearheading a campus event, or something we haven't even thought of yet.

ii. PH in New York City

Project HEALTH runs three Family Help Desks in New York City: two are staffed by Columbia/Barnard undergraduates, and one staffed by NYU undergraduates. Columbia and Barnard undergraduates are eligible for the Columbia Presbyterian and Harlem Hospital: Ron Brown Help Desks.

Family Help Desk

The Family Help Desk is a resource and advocacy program that helps families access community resources critical to their health, safety, and economic survival.

Volunteers talk with families at the desk about their resource needs and connect them with appropriate local services and benefits related to food, housing, health insurance, immigration, childcare, adult education, and job training. Volunteers then follow-up with clients and service providers to ensure that families receive the necessary resources and to troubleshoot or provide additional services as necessary.

The FHD is open from Mon-Fri with a shift each morning and afternoon. Each volunteer attends one shift weekly (including travel time, these shifts last 3 hours). Each volunteer also attends a Reflection session (on campus): 1 hour/week, regular time determined by volunteers.

Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, 181st Street Audobon Clinic 181st and Saint Nicholas

The Washington Heights Family Health Clinic serves a diverse population including a large number of Spanish speakers as well as patients from Arabic- and French-speaking countries. Much of the client population consists of lower-income families facing such issues as diabetes, obesity and other diabetes risk factors, and childhood asthma. A strong emphasis is placed preventive care and increased health literacy.

Harlem Hospital, Ron Brown Clinic 135th and Lenox Avenue

Harlem Hospital is located in the heart of Harlem. The surrounding communities consist primarily of low-income African American and Hispanic residents. The hospital is a 286-bed facility, and the Department of Pediatrics offers comprehensive services, with a wide-range of community-based outreach and support service affiliations.

Each volunteer also attends:

- Reflection session (on campus): 1 hour/week, regular time determined by volunteers and Program Coordinators

iii. the application process

Important dates for applicants:

- Application Deadline: Friday, September 18 @ 5pm: Applicants who are selected to advance will be contacted to schedule an interview.
- Interview: Sunday, September 20; 10am - 6pm: Interviews last about 20 minutes and are conducted by our Program Coordinators (PCs), who are the students who run the Family Help Desks.
- Trainings: Saturday, September 26 & Saturday, October 3; 10am – 5pm: Program trainings and clinic orientation. Exact dates and times for the trainings during the remainder of the week will be given prior to interviews. In order to volunteer, you need to be able to attend both training dates.

iv. how to apply!

Applications are due by and must be submitted via our online application system.

To request a link to the online application system, email Liz Lamoste (Elizabeth.lamoste@gmail.com) or Lekha Menon (lsm2119@columbia.edu), with “fall application” in the subject line and your first and last name in the email body. She will send you a link to the system. Note that this link will be unique to your email address – do NOT forward it to anyone else, or their answers could overwrite yours!

v. questions?

Contact Campus Coordinators Liz Lamoste and Lekha Menon (see email addresses above). Please include “application question” in the subject line to insure prompt response prior to application review.

Thanks for your application. We look forward to working with you!

