

A Ministry of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

Info to Help You Apply For a Service Year

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*Nothing is small in the service of God
-St. Francis de Sales*

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

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THE CITY OF CAMDEN

Service Year Volunteers are at DSW's Camden NJ location. DSW and our founding order, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, have been in Camden since 2010. Camden is often ranked as the most dangerous and impoverished city in the country. There is no denying the great need that is here- there are frequent problems with crime, poor education, chronic homelessness, and the selling and using of narcotics. Camden is also a place of wonderful hope and faith. The combination of Camden's needs and faith is what makes this city such an interesting and dynamic place to live and serve. During your time here, you will be immersed in the culture and experience of serving. Camden is over 40% Hispanic, mostly Puerto Ricans and Dominicans. Whether it's attending Spanish Mass or serving the homeless, you experience the thriving side of Camden by living in our North Camden neighborhood.

SAFETY

Although Camden has a reputation for crime, you will be safe here during your stay of service. As we tell retreat groups who serve here, you are safe because of the work you do with the church. The local residents have a great respect for the church and those who come to help others. Holy Name is the neighborhood Catholic Church, and its name and people have been well respected in the area for years. The safety precautions for being in Camden are the same as any city- stay with the group, don't be outside alone at night, don't pick up sharp objects, etc.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

As a Service Year Volunteer, you'll be assigned to a ministry where your gifts and talents can be matched with a need in the community. Volunteers have the choice of a variety of service opportunities. An individual's placement can either be all with one agency or can be made up of a

combination of placements. There are service placements to meet each volunteer's interests and talents. Below is a list of ministries that DSW has placed volunteers in the past. If you are interested in a professional field that you do not see below, we will find a placement that suits your skills and talents!

- **Hopeworks-** Youth education center that works with teenagers who dropped out of high school to get back on track and go to college. The youth learn website design and goal setting
- **Guadalupe Family Services-** Reaches out to families who have experienced violent crime. Service volunteers conduct life skills classes like anger management and conflict resolution for ages 1-8 at Holy Name School.
- **Project HOPE-** Healthcare for the homeless facility
- **Camden Law Center-** Offers neighborhood legal aid, focusing in the area of domestic abuse and immigration
- **Joseph's House-** Homeless Shelter that accomodates 75 guests and a variety of social services
- **Holy Name School-** Catholic grade school- variety of positions available
- **Cristo Rey- Philadelphia-** Coordination of after school tutoring, transportation of students to intern sites

All Service Year Volunteers have the opportunity to assist leading DSW's high school, college and parish Salesian Service Retreats, sharing their insight & experience about poverty, the Gospel, Catholic social teaching, and Salesian wisdom.

SERVICE PERIOD

Volunteers serve from August to August of each year with the possibility of extending their service for another year.

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APPLICATION INFO

Service Year Volunteer Application

Thank you for applying to DSW and considering serving with us for a year. Year-long volunteering is truly a transformative experience- you will surely be a changed person because of it. Volunteers leave having learned more about themselves while being challenged personally and professionally. The impact you will have on the neighborhood during your service period is greatly appreciated by the community.

Application Timeline

Below are the application deadlines. However we do accept applications on a rolling admission basis. Feel free to call or write our office at any time if you have any questions. We process applications in the order they arrive completed. You will be contacted in order to set up a phone interview to further discuss your application. Thank you for applying and considering serving for a year with DSW!

- **February 15-** Preliminary Application Due. Form can be found on the website.
- **March 15-** Application Essays and References due
- **After Applications are Received:**
 - Phone Interview with DSW

- Phone Interview with your potential ministry site
- In-Person Interview with DSW and your ministry site (strongly preferred but not required)
- **April 15-** Announcements of Acceptance go out

*****Applications are accepted until all site placement positions are filled, but priority is given to applications received by the priority deadlines*****

You will receive a phone call confirming that we have received your application and to set up a time for a **phone interview**. If you do not hear from us within a week of sending your application, please give us a call to confirm it was received (especially if sent through the mail). Announcements about acceptance into the program will go out by **April 15th**. Each application is carefully read and screened to determine if the applicant is appropriate for the DSW Program and that DSW is a good fit for the applicant.

A completed application will contain the following:

1. Preliminary Application (online)
2. Full Application (online or downloadable)
3. Reference Forms- Three references must be received

You can submit References in one of two ways:

1. Email to DSW.morgan@gmail.com
2. Mail to 522 State Street, Camden NJ 08102. Mailed references and essays must be postmarked by March 15th to the address above. Please email to confirm so we know to expect it by mail, and save a copy before sending it.