

The Christian Activities Council is a social justice organization affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Our mission is to develop leaders who act collectively for social justice. Our primary focus as an organization is on community organizing in neighborhoods and through churches, synagogues, mosques, and other faith-based institutions. We work with neighborhood leaders, clergy, and congregants to organize around important social justice issues in Greater Hartford. We also operate a dynamic summer program called Freedom School, for youth who come from low-income families.

The UCC Intern will play a vital leadership role in the Freedom School program and will participate in the community organizing initiatives.

Freedom School Responsibilities and Opportunities:

Freedom Schools were designed by Marian Wright Edelman, a civil rights leader and currently the CEO of the Children's Defense Fund. Edelman was inspired by her own participation in the 1964 Freedom Schools in Mississippi and wanted to find a way to stop summer learning loss which is a primary contributor of the achievement gap in the United States. Our Freedom School operates for six weeks during the summer and takes place at a neighborhood school in one of Hartford's most culturally rich, yet economically poor neighborhoods. The Freedom School program uses a literacy-based program strongly rooted in the cultural heritage of the African American and Latino community. It combines an academic approach with a focus on social action, civil rights, and leadership development. To get a sense of the spirit and dynamism of this unique summer program visit our web site at www.christianactivities.org or google Freedom School videos.

Specific responsibilities of the UCC intern will include, but not be limited to:

- Attending national Freedom School training at the historic Haley Farm in Clinton, TN. All expenses paid.
- Coordinate the social action and advocacy days associated with Freedom School
- Maintaining regular communication with Children's Defense Fund's national staff.
- Assist in the recruiting, hiring, and management of local program staff.
- Coordinate logistics for summer program operation in partnership with executive director.
- Meet weekly with the site coordinator(s) and hold weekly meetings with all staff – site coordinator(s) and servant leader interns..
- Enter all student data and provide summary reports for end of program grant reporting
- Plan afternoon enrichment component and hire teaching artists
- Assist in the school-based recruitment of students

Neighborhood and Faith Based Organizing: Our organization works in urban neighborhoods to train resident leaders who identify issues affecting the quality of life in their community. We then work with the leaders and organize campaigns to solve community issues.

The UCC intern will receive significant training in faith-based and neighborhood

organizing and will engage in the organizing efforts of the organization.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Conducting listening campaigns in the neighborhoods and with homeowners connected to our first-time homebuyer program
- Researching issues that emerge from the listening campaign to identify what is actionable
- Working with residents and staff to build and execute organizing campaigns.