



Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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CASA DE CLARA

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Organizational Profile

Casa de Clara, located in a home in downtown San Jose, is a Catholic Worker house where single women are welcome for temporary shelter. It provides a warm, safe, homelike shelter for six to eight individuals. While residents are looking for more permanent housing, a job, or other community resources, they are welcome to a place to stay, meals, and other help the community can provide. Guests are welcome to stay on a two week basis. Extensions are granted on an as-need basis. The house is maintained by volunteer staff who also live at Casa. Casa closes at 8 am each day and reopens at 4 pm.

SCU Student's Role

Students who choose this placement should be comfortable with initiating conversations with homeless women. SCU students will be at Casa during the dinner time. Students may choose to go from 4:30-6:30 pm which includes interacting with the house guests in preparing the meal and then sitting down to dinner with the guests and staff. Or, students may choose to go from 6-8 pm and arrive in time to share the meal with the guests and participate in an activity (i.e. arts & crafts) afterwards in collaboration with a House staff person. Students will also be encouraged to initiate and plan such activities. Mealtime is a good time to engage in conversation with guests and to get an insight into the rhythms of life at Casa de Clara. Students who approach their participation at Casa de Clara with a willingness to “jump-in” and participate in whatever activities are taking place will find their time at Casa enhanced immeasurably.

To Do Before Orientation

- Visit the website listed above to learn more about the Catholic Worker Movement. At this time Casa de Clara does not have an individual website.
- Review the documents provided at orientation regarding the Catholic Worker Movement.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.