Organization Name: Wholesome Wave Georgia (WWG)

Address: 408 Woodward Avenue, Atlanta GA 30312

Mailing Address (if different): PO Box 5794, Atlanta GA 31107

Phone: 404 998 0051
Web site: http://www.wholesomewavegeorgia.org/

Internship Supervisor: Sara Berney, Executive Director

Supervisor’s contact information including e-mail: 404-998-0051, Sara@wholesomewavegeorgia.org

Organization’s Mission Statement: To increase access to healthy, fresh, locally grown food for all Georgians.

Summary of organization’s primary programs and services:

Wholesome Wave Georgia Background:
Wholesome Wave Georgia is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to increase access to fresh, healthy, locally grown food for all Georgians. The primary way WWG does this is through its Double Value Coupon Program (DVCP) where SNAP benefits (also known as food stamps) are doubled at partner farmers markets. WWG started the DVCP in 2009 with 3 markets and has since expanded to 35 farmers markets and farms around the state of Georgia. Since its inaugural year in 2009, WWG has distributed $521,000 that has doubled to $1,042,000 in healthy, fresh food to SNAP recipients at our partner markets. Wholesome Wave Georgia acknowledges this as a benefit not only to the customers who are eating more fresh, healthy, locally produced food, but also for the local farmers and local economy surrounding our partner markets.

Target Population:
Wholesome Wave Georgia’s focus is on low-income households that receive SNAP benefits in the state of Georgia. SNAP recipients can come from a variety of different backgrounds and family structures so it is important to understand that no two SNAP recipients are the same. However, figuring out general common behaviors and modes of communication will be important to determine how to best reach the target population.
Benefits Enrollment Program Background:
In January, 2014, WWG initiated a partnership with the Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS) through its SNAP Outreach Plan Grant program. This program allows WWG to screen, enroll and renew individuals in SNAP benefits. SNAP recipients go through WWG in lieu of going through DFACS to enroll in benefits. In 2014, WWG experienced much difficulty in connecting with potential SNAP recipients, enrolling them in benefits and having them attend WWG partner markets and participate in the DVCP. To date, WWG has enrolled 35 households in benefits.

Intern’s title: SNAP Outreach Intern

Number of interns requested by this organization: 1 or 2

Internship project/job description:
The SNAP Outreach Intern will be responsible for coordinating, promoting and conducting all benefits screening and enrollment visits to Wholesome Wave Georgia partner farmers markets. The Intern will work closely with Wholesome Wave Georgia’s Executive Director and Community Outreach Coordinator to develop a work plan that outlines the coordination, marketing and implementation of all benefits enrollment and screening visits.

Qualifications:
• Excellent written and verbal communication skills: demonstrated ability to express information effectively in a clear and convincing manner.
• Excellent interpersonal skills: demonstrated ability to develop and maintain relationships and relate well to individuals from varied backgrounds.
• High degree of emotional intelligence.
• Excellent organizational and time management skills.
• Flexibility, a positive attitude and willingness to adjust to a rapidly changing landscape and the possibility of unanticipated projects and demands.
• Ability to quickly come up to speed on existing initiatives and on WWG’s DVCP.
• Ability and availability to travel independently and represent a state-wide organization. Driver’s license and access to a car are necessary.
• Computer skills, including Microsoft Office Suite.

Are there other requirements for this position (security check, drug screen, immunizations, etc.)? If yes, please note them here: N/A.

Will the internship require that the student have a car?: Yes.

Is placement site accessible by public transit or other transportation options?: No – While Wholesome Wave Georgia office is accessible by MARTA (1 mile from King Station), the intern will need car to travel to markets regularly.