Organization Name: Wholesome Wave Georgia

Address: 408 Woodward Ave, Atlanta GA 30312

Mailing Address (if different): PO Box 5794 Atlanta, GA 31107
Phone: 404-998-0051
Website: www.wholesomewavegeorgia.org

Internship Supervisor: Sara Berney

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

Organization’s Mission Statement: Wholesome Wave Georgia strives to increase access to fresh, healthy, locally grown food for all Georgians.

Summary of organization’s primary programs and services: In Georgia, 1 out of 5 individuals are considered food insecure and receive federal nutrition assistance (FNA) benefits through programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, aka Food Stamps), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. The high cost and low accessibility of fresh, compared to processed foods, leaves these FNA recipients with limited options to feed their families. Food insecurity is linked to poverty, obesity, and diet-related illnesses. The effect of food insecurity on Georgia’s families is evident: 68% of adults and 50% of children in low-income households are overweight or obese.

Wholesome Wave Georgia (WWG) strives to make fresh, healthy food available to all by doubling FNA benefits at farmers markets in Georgia through our Healthy Food Incentive Program. By doubling each FNA dollar, we leverage existing government nutrition programs to encourage shopping at local farmers markets. Healthy food incentive programs at markets also significantly boosts healthy eating in low-income communities, improves the economic viability of farmers, and strengthens local economies.

WWG has grown from a network of three farmers markets to a network of 50 farmers markets and farms. Since its inaugural year in 2009, WWG has distributed $700,000 that has doubled to $1.4M in healthy food for families across the state.
In January, 2014, WWG initiated a partnership with the Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS) as a SNAP Outreach partner. The process to receive federal food assistance can be a barrier to the families that are eligible for WWG’s programs. Through this partnership, we conduct site visits to partner farmers markets and community organizations, where we help people complete applications for assistance. In 2015, WWG staff assisted 37 individuals to enroll in federal food assistance programs; 49% of these individuals were approved to receive benefits.

Intern’s title: Community Outreach Intern

**Number of interns requested by this organization:** 1 (2 if funding becomes available)

**Internship project/job description:** The Community Outreach Intern will be responsible for coordinating, promoting and conducting all benefits screening and enrollment visits to farmers markets and community organizations. 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. The Intern will also assist with activities as they arise that serve to promote the DVCP and equip our partners with useful tools and resources.

**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.