



Tools for Building Hopeful Futures

"My internship at Northern Trust Bank has opened doors for me. It enabled me to prove myself as a motivated and trustworthy person. I wanted to be part of the summer internship program to experience doing something different, to see if I could build a resume for the future."

— Pashaey, Summer Intern

"It seems that Mercy Home's kids' eyes were opened to many career opportunities they didn't even know existed. Seeing first hand how a company operates and all the pieces that make a company successful is exposure many kids don't get until they enter the workforce."

— David Gupta, SDI

Mercy Home for Boys & Girls offers young people in crisis an opportunity of a lifetime – one that can save their lives and change their futures. Specifically, Mercy Home provides youth with the means for personal, academic and professional growth.

We seek partnerships with companies and businesses in the Chicago metropolitan area who can offer our young people opportunities to work, learn on the job and gain the experience necessary to develop successful careers. Opportunities such as:

Jobs: We partner with employers to give our young people valuable work experience in full and part-time jobs throughout the year and in the summer.

Internships: We also support the long-term vocational development of our young people by placing them in internships at leading businesses.

Our jobs and internships program gives kids like ours what they need most — real tools with which they can build better, more productive futures. By putting the means to succeed in their hands, we give them a solution to cycles of neglect and abandonment, poverty and hopelessness. And, this program contributes to a better prepared, more highly-skilled workforce right here in the Chicago region.

But we need you to play a part in this solution. If you have a work opportunity you can offer to a deserving young person from Mercy Home, our professional staff is ready to provide the support necessary to ensure the success of the placement.

Here's how it works:

1. Each youth candidate at Mercy Home conducts a career interest inventory, completes a pre-employment training course, participates in interview seminars and works at Mercy Home.
2. Mercy Home staff pre-screen the most qualified and motivated youth candidates for job interviews.
3. Once a youth is selected for a position, Mercy Home staff establish a relationship with the employer to make available any support necessary to ensure the success of the job experience.

What our kids need:

1. **Summer internships in professional settings:** These are opportunities for Mercy Home youth to work in companies and in jobs that further their career interests. Candidates are carefully selected, and are often academic achievers and those who have had

previous work experience. They gain from the exposure, shadowing and mentorship in a professional setting. They often earn an entry level salary, but receive so much more from the experience.

2. **Entry-level summer jobs:** We require all working-age youth at Mercy Home to work, providing that they are progressing academically. If they have little or no job experience, they begin working in a variety of work duties offered at Mercy Home. In the summer, we look for entry-level full and part-time jobs where supervision is critical. Mercy Home staff provide a network of support as the youth learns on the job.

3. **Year-round jobs:** Many Mercy Home youth need to work year round as they complete high school, go on to college in Chicago and begin to build successful professional careers.

To learn more about partnering with Mercy Home, please contact Steve Ritzema, Mercy Home Vocational Manager at 312.738.9576 or at sterit@mercyhome.org



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