



Volunteer Description: Classroom Assistant / Tutor

About:

Operation Fresh Start addresses core issues facing low-income communities: education, employment, crime prevention, affordable housing and leadership development. At OFS, low-income young people ages 16-24 work toward their GED or high school diploma, learn job skills, and serve their communities by building affordable housing. In the process, they fundamentally change their lives and roles in society.

Classroom:

Because many of our students come to the OFS classroom having experienced failure in traditional schools, the objective of our curriculum is to help them overcome the fear and frustration they often feel toward school work.

In order to do this, we focus on three goals:

- To assist each young person to achieve the highest form of high school accreditation possible. OFS works with local school districts to help students make up credits, attend night school, or complete an IEP. If diploma-completion is not a practical goal, OFS students work toward completing the HSED or GED.
- To help students master a broad base of practical skills and academic subject areas to prepare them for a career-track employment and life as independent young adults.
- To increase enrollment and retention in post secondary education and vocational training program.

We work towards these goals by providing an individualized learning environment in which certified teachers, as well as skilled volunteer tutors, provide small group and one-on-one instruction. Typically, OFS students spend 2-4 hours daily in the classroom and the remainder of the day on the service site.

Volunteers:

Under the direction of our teaching staff, volunteer tutors at OFS work one-on-one with our students; completing assignments, taking practice tests, instructing critical subject matter, and addressing other academic needs. Ideally, our tutors create and maintain a regular schedule wherein they volunteer a couple hours each week with the same student. This helps build classroom continuity for our students, but it also gives our volunteers the opportunity to build meaningful relationships.