



## Sacred Heart Community Service – La Mesa Verde Project AmeriCorps Job Description

### What is the Silicon Valley HealthCorps?

In an innovative new partnership, The Health Trust has joined together with AmeriCorps and nine local organizations to form the Silicon Valley HealthCorps. The goal of this collaboration is to use gardens, farm to school programs and the work of 46 AmeriCorps members to bring fresh fruits, vegetables and education to residents of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The program seeks to engage the community as active participants in promoting and sustaining community and school gardens, and to provide a coordinated, county-wide approach to expanding garden based learning. The program will also increase access to fresh produce through the development of new school and community gardens, low-cost farm stands, and by utilizing a farm-to-school model to increase the amount of fresh and local produce served in school lunches.

### What is Sacred Heart La Mesa Verde Project?

Founded in 1964 by anti-poverty activist Louise Benson, Sacred Heart Community Service has grown over 44 years from providing food and clothing to our neighbors in need into Santa Clara County's largest community pantry and multi-service agency. Our mission is to change lives and impact poverty by providing essential services, offering tools for self-sufficiency, and ministering with dignity, compassion and respect. We engage the community and inspire volunteers to love, serve and share.

*La Mesa Verde*, will cultivate organic home gardens at 100 low and very low income households in San Jose. La Mesa Verde Project will improve healthy eating and well-being of low-income families and increasing self-sufficiency through home organic vegetable gardens.

**Member Duties:** The HealthCorps member must be fluent in Spanish. He/she will assist in the recruitment of participant families, building and installation of raised beds and drip irrigation systems, make home visits and track progress of home organic gardens. Many of the families SHCS serves are monolingual and exposed to organic gardening methods for the first time. The HealthCorps member will receive training on how to build raised beds, install drip irrigation systems and how to maintain an organic vegetable garden. Must be in good physical shape, comfortable handling hammer/saw, willing to work outdoors in all types of weather, and have reliable transportation.

### Program Details:

Program Location: San Jose, CA  
Program Start/End Date: October 2010– September 2011  
Accepting Applications: Yes  
Number of Open Positions: 1

**Skill Requirements:** Able to work with hammer/saw and gardening tools, Bilingual English/Spanish required. Reliable transportation required.

### Program Benefits:

Living Allowance: \$16,000 stipend (distributed bi-weekly)  
Education Award: \$5,350 awarded after completion of service  
Health Insurance: For full-time members only

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Or visit [www.healthtrust.org/svhealthcorps](http://www.healthtrust.org/svhealthcorps) for more information.