



# URBAN EDUCATION IMMERSION

## **A Year of Service in Education**

East Hartford, Connecticut  
September 2018 – July 2019

Stem the cycle of poverty by joining the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers in working with East Hartford Public Schools to mentor children and youth who are behind in literacy. As a member you will have training, mentorship and direct experience working in a multicultural urban school system. Members receive a \$12,530 stipend, Americorps education grant, and healthcare. First Congregational Church of East Hartford offers free housing on Main Street for members who desire a deeper involvement with the East Hartford community.



Frequently Asked Questions on Back →

Mentor Children &  
Youth in Literacy

Live on Main St.  
Rent-Free

Community  
Engagement  
Opportunities

Training and  
Mentorship in  
Urban Education

Diverse  
Multicultural  
School System

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East Hartford Public Schools

Notre Dame Mission  
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860.528.3133

## **Where does the Urban Immersion Program take place?**

You can work in an elementary, middle, or high school in East Hartford, Connecticut. The school population in East Hartford is multi-racial and multi-ethnic, with over 50 languages spoken. The population is also very transient – which means children enter the school system at various levels and may not be aware of the resources in town. According to the United Way ALICE report, of the 20,157 households of East Hartford, 53% struggle to make ends meet. There are enough students who qualify for free school lunches that the school system provides free lunch and breakfast for 71% of the student population. At one half of the district's schools, free and reduced meals are provided to every child. The schools provide tutoring and after-school support, but the need is great. Compassionate, dedicated service members, with an openness to diverse cultures and backgrounds, are sought to support the staff and teachers in East Hartford.

East Hartford is home to many bike paths, parks, including a riverfront park, and a newly renovated library (across street from church housing). East Hartford and Hartford, right over the river, hosts free concerts on the green, free Winterfest activities, free yoga in the park, delicious restaurants, comedy clubs, improv groups, craft beer breweries, funky coffee shops, and dancing of all varieties. Church housing is on multiple bus routes running consistently into Hartford (10 minute ride).

## **What does an average day look like?**

The day would generally start by meeting with the intern's supervisor to assess the needs and discuss the day's schedule for instruction. During the school day the intern will lead small groups of students who are struggling with literacy skill development. Using the curriculum and resources provided by the certified teacher, the intern will coach and provide instruction to identified students. After school, the intern will assist the after-school program. The elementary schools' after-school programs involve homework help and structured educational and extra-curricular activities. The middle school and high school after-school programs are either extra-curricular in nature and at times offer additional supports to students who struggle with reading. During the summer, the interns would support extra-curricular activities at summer meal sites.

## **What about finances and healthcare?**

Members receive a \$12,530 (pre-tax) stipend from the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers and healthcare during their year of service. In addition, members receive an Americorps education grant after their year of service. Rent-free housing on Main St is available.

## **Free Housing?**

The First Congregational Church of East Hartford welcomes members to live in the Woodward House on Main Street, rent-free (utilities divided among house residents). This progressive and diverse congregation has a long history of town involvement and will connect members to town events, services, and community. Members living in church housing are expected to delve deeper into the community in ways meaningful to them, spending approximately 8 hours a month on congregational engagement outside of their direct service in the schools. Interns may present programs to church members on topics of interest to the intern, join in social activities, lead a book study, attend or lead worship, help in the community garden, food bank, or in a project of their choice.

## **What sort of training and mentorship is provided?**

At your school you will be under the direct supervision of a certified teacher, offering daily guidance. Once a month you will meet with other members serving schools in Connecticut for training and support. Twice a year members attend a national training for all Notre Dame Mission Volunteers. Members living in church housing will also receive a spiritual mentor, if they desire. Optional training opportunities are provided throughout the year by the East Hartford Public Schools and by the First Congregational Church.