

Service Opportunity Data Sheet

Mennonite Voluntary Service



Jubilee North – Rochester NY

Position Title: Policy and Social Justice Assistant

Organization/Agency Name: Northeast Organic Farming Association, New York, INC

249 Highland Ave.
Rochester, NY. 14620
585.271.1979
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www.nofany.org

The Agency

NOFA NY, Inc is a statewide organization of consumers, gardeners, and farmers working together to create a sustainable regional food system which is ecologically sound and economically viable. Through demonstration and educational opportunities, we promote land stewardship, organic food production, and local marketing. NOFA NY brings consumers and farmers closer together to make high quality food available to all people.

The Job

The Policy and Social Justice Assistant will play an important role in providing support for our Food Justice Initiatives and Policy Committee. This is a diverse position, which includes work in the community, work with member-farmers, communications, volunteer coordination, meeting facilitation, some general office support, and support for our annual farming and gardening conference in Saratoga Springs, NY.

The Food Justice Program works to connect low-income communities with healthy organic food—through the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) model. This work will include educating low income communities about CSA, helping organize local neighborhood core CSA groups (building capacity among local leaders to improve their food access), and educating organic farmers about navigating urban neighborhoods and accepting food stamps for CSA. In 2011-2012 this position will also help pilot a local fair trade pledge program—an in-depth set of farm labor and fair pricing standards that farmers pledge to follow.

The Policy Program is directed by a volunteer member policy committee of consumer, farmer, and gardener NOFA members concerned with maintaining a viable culture for sustainable family farming in NYS. The committee sets the annual policy agenda for the upcoming year and meets regularly. This work will include policy topic research, support to complete a NYS Organic Action Plan, some meeting facilitation, volunteer coordination, and possibly event-planning support for a NOFA lobby day in Albany, NY. This work will include communications, volunteer coordination, and some entry-level policy program development.

Duties to Include (but not limited to):

Direct support to Food Justice Program:

- Education and outreach to undeserved communities about organic produce and CSA;
- Organizing CSA Core Groups in mixed and low-income communities;
- Organizing farmer educational events about marketing CSA in low-income communities;
- Development of web-available fact-sheets for farmers and consumers on WIC, Food Stamps, other alternative payment methods, and food justice farm profiles;
- Work with local churches to promote local agriculture and CSA;
- Support on implementing a pilot agriculture justice pledge program, modeled off the new agriculture justice domestic fair trade certification program.
- Food Justice outreach support for Annual Education Conference in Saratoga Springs.

Direct support to Policy Program:

- Provide communications support for the NOFA-NY policy committee and members
- Support general policy education outreach to public. Work with Assistant Director to create policy outreach materials as needed and support outreach efforts.
- Develop white papers that support policy positions.
- Write and send action alerts.
- Update website policy sections.
- Work with volunteers to help facilitate and record committee meetings.
- Works with Assistant Director on development of a NYS Action Plan Policy outreach support for Annual Education Conference in Saratoga Springs.

The Qualifications

- In final years of college or BA;
- Some background in farming and ecology – or willingness to learn;
- Proficiency in computer use, including Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel) and Internet/email use;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills; ability to multi-task and work independently;
- Valid driver's license and ability to drive a car. Occasional driving will be required.

For more details on the Rochester MVS unit, contact Roger Kurtz at 585-831-6724.

To apply for this or other MVS positions, go to <http://service.mennonitemission.net> and choose "Mennonite Voluntary Service."