

Jaclyn Cobosco

## Job Description

For my internship with New Hope Ministries, I am working at an after school program for students in the Mechanicsburg Area School District. This program serves children from four elementary schools, the local middle school, and high school. The program is for children of families receiving aid from New Hope as well as for other at-risk children in the community. Youth are referred to the program by New Hope's center managers and the local schools that have identified children who have academic, behavioral, and social issues. The program offers group prayer, group sharing, snacks, homework help, teambuilding activities, Bible lessons, and life skills. At the end of every week each child gets a "power pack" which is a bag filled with food that the children can prepare themselves. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons is the "Teens in Transition" (TNT) program for middle school and high school students. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons is the "Seeds of Success" (SOS) program for elementary school students.

As an intern, I help to prepare lessons and activities for the students outside of the program. During the program, I lead activities and assist with homework and relationship building. I also assist with picking up and dropping off two students for the elementary school program. New Hope Ministries and its staff and volunteers, encourage the development of a safe and welcoming environment for the students, especially one in which the students feel comfortable sharing successes and problems with the staff and volunteers. The program provides adult role models and encourages each child to have good relationships with family, friends, and the community at large. The program also strives to affirm each child's value and worth, promote educational success, and help the youth break the cycle of poverty that many of their families are experiencing. New Hope Ministries also believes it is important to encourage the development of a relationship with Christ and to share God's unconditional love. This is especially important since many of the children do not come from religious families and the importance of a relationship with God is not stressed. New Hope staff and volunteers seek to help each child realize the relevance of Jesus Christ in his or her life and world.