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Paid “Externship” Opportunity

The Barton Center for Diabetes Education, Inc. is offering a unique externship opportunity for graduate social work students and new graduates. This paid position gives the student an opportunity for a unique experience to enhance his or her skills.

The Barton Center operates two residential summer camps with a target population of children with insulin dependent diabetes between the ages of six and sixteen. Traditionally diabetes is managed using a chronic care model. At camp we choose a wellness model. We normalize diabetes through careful scheduling, teachable moments, and counselors living with diabetes as mentors and role models. We offer a supportive, nurturing environment for children to explore their diabetes and their lifestyle with diabetes.

Children with diabetes struggle with many of the same issues other children struggle with; issues like divorce, bullying, loneliness, low self-esteem, and isolation. We also have campers with eating disorders, diabulemia, autism spectrum, behavioral management challenges, and various psychiatric diagnoses.

Under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker we are looking for a compassionate individual who will advocate for the camper and is skilled in active listening and creative problem solving. The successful candidate for the externship must be knowledgeable in social and systems theory and application of evidence based practice.

The position responsibilities will include collaboration with the families and health care team of the challenged individual to develop a care plan specific to camp that will maximize the successful experience of the child. In addition to children with known obstacles, the social work intern will evaluate problematic situations and referrals by the cabin counselors. Then together with the consulting social worker, health care team, and camp administrators develop an intervention and possible behavior plan.

The position is open from June 20th – August 13, 2010. One camp is located in North Oxford, Massachusetts, and the other is 3 miles away in Charlton, Massachusetts. This paid externship also offers room and board. Interested individuals may contact Bonny Huston, Health Services Manager at (508)987-2056 ext 210, or bonny.huston@bartoncenter.org by March 1, 2010.