Organization:  ‘r kids, Inc. (aka ‘r kids Family Center)

Address:  45 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut 06511
Website:  www.rkidsct.org
Direct Supervisor:  Randi Rubin Rodriguez, Co-Founder and Executive Director
Phone Number:  203-865-5437
Email Address:  Randi@rkidsct.org
Placement Dates:  May 29, 2018 through August 10, 2018
‘r kids is willing to be flexible within these parameters.

Hours of Program:  9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. M-Th, 9 – 3 Fridays

Organization Description and Mission:
‘r kids Family Center (‘r kids) Now in its 22th year, ‘r kids mission is permanency, safety and stability for vulnerable children and their families. ‘r kids’ provides strength-based, culturally competent, respectful and nurturing services to biological, kinship, foster and adoptive families in the greater New Haven region, ultimately leading to resilient successful community members, thereby stabilizing neighborhoods.

The ‘r kids’ tag line embodies its mission. With each child, the world begins anew (Midrash).

PROJECT SUMMARY: ‘r kids Family Center is currently involved in a major capital campaign of $4 million to expand our facility to more successfully serve our vulnerable children and families. This offers a unique opportunity to a Presidential Fellow as the project will be involved working with our Architectural Firm, Newick Architects, in assisting and providing research and recommendations for building and landscape sustainability.

Description of Project Work: Our Environmental Sustainability intern will work directly with our Development Consultant and receive guidance from our architect, Craig Newick, a Yale School of Architecture graduate with an established firm located in New Haven. Several newly designed spaces including a rooftop garden, an infant-toddler playground and an outdoor courtyard garden along with property landscaping are all elements we are seeking to be addressed in this internship. Additional elements include solar paneling and input on furniture and fixtures that may qualify for green funding. They will connect their knowledge with a thoughtful eye to highlighting this nonprofit that serves a unique population, serving very special children and families and is the entry-way to the Dixwell Corridor and the first non-Yale-owned property (easily within walking distance of all University Residences and the School of Forestry.)
Another major aspect of this project can be linking ‘r kids with new funding resources connecting to Conscious Capitalism Groups and enhancing our regional visibility.

**Specific Skills/Experience Required for Project:**
This position will require effective interaction with a wide range of internal staff and outside entities – architectural firm members as well as construction professionals, board members, ‘r kids management staff. Exceptional written, verbal communication and research skills are also integral to the success of this project. Ideal students could come from the Yale School of Forestry or School of Organizational Management.

**Prior Yale PPSF Fellows at ‘r kids:**
Previous Fellows include an intern who coded randomly selected family case files to begin the process of identifying the key factors that contribute to our demonstrably higher reunification rates. In 2014, a Yale fellow organized our library, worked with case managers on our annual summer outing and updated research for a proprietary work on reconnecting families subjected to domestic violence. Last year we had a very successful PPSF who worked on our development and marketing initiatives with an emphasis on photography. Interns have consistently loved this opportunity and the they learned so much about non-profits’ challenges. They expressed “I never really knew New Haven families and I was not aware of the issues these children are facing.” We are eager to have another summer intern as we learn and grow together.