



## BLOOM YOUTH PROJECT INTERN REFERENCE

### TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERN

1. Write **YOUR NAME HERE:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Give this form to an adult who knows you well but who is not a member of your family, such as a teacher, coach, employer, minister, etc. You may make copies of this form to give to more than one adult.
3. Explain to that person why you want to work for Bloom Youth Project.

### TO BE COMPLETED BY REFERENCE WRITER

Thank you for taking the time to offer your perspective on this youth! Please follow these steps:

1. Read the fact sheet on the back of this page.
2. Fill in the requested information below and answer the four questions at the bottom of the page.
3. **Please have references to us by February 21.** Mail it to The Hunger Coalition, 121 Honeysuckle St, Bellevue, ID 83313, or email it to Bloom Youth Project at [info@thehungercoalition.org](mailto:info@thehungercoalition.org). Online reference forms can be found at [www.thehungercoalition.org](http://www.thehungercoalition.org) under About Us, Work With Us.

If you have questions, contact Megan Schooley at The Hunger Coalition (208) 788-0121, ext. 313.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to have community partners involved with Bloom Youth Project and will invite them to come work alongside the interns, help interns achieve personal goals and refer future interns to us. Would you like to remain involved with Bloom Youth Project? If so, we will follow up with you to understand how you'd like to be involved.  Y e s  N o

**Please answer the following questions as fully as possible. We are looking for youth who want to make a substantial commitment of time and energy. There are no right answers to these questions. Please be honest and transparent in your answers as it will help us build a well-rounded team. Attach your answers to this sheet. Thank you!**

1. How long and in what capacity have you known this young person? What do you know about the applicant's work habits, learning style, and role in group dynamics?
2. How is their school attendance record? Do they show up consistently and on time?
3. How do you feel Bloom Youth Project could serve this young person?
4. In your opinion, how could this young person serve Bloom Youth Project?
5. Please give us any other information that might be useful to working with this young person.



## BLOOM YOUTH PROJECT FACT SHEET FOR REFERENCE WRITERS

Spring 2018 will bring the second season of Bloom Youth Project, a **paid** youth internship program through The Hunger Coalition that will use Bloom Community Farm as its teaching ground. Youth in our community will come together to grow food, learn about themselves and others, develop strong workplace skills, engage in life skills workshops, work hard and have fun!

### Who Do We Hire?

- 8-10 youth, ages 14-16 (age exceptions made by Bloom Youth Project staff)
- Youth from the Wood River Valley

### Why Do We Hire Them?

- We believe that the most profound way to break the cycle of poverty is to create opportunity for young people to learn the skills they'll need to navigate their adult lives in a healthy and successful manner
- We hire a mix of high-achievers, youth struggling to get by, and youth walking the middle road: our goal is to break down the walls that exist between these youth by having them work together
- We are looking for youth who are excited about our mission and have a willingness to work hard and learn

### What Do They Do?

- Work approximately 9 hours/week during the spring and fall, and 20 hours/week during the summer
- Learn to grow food at Bloom Community Farm and The Hope Garden
- Spend one day a week in the summer running a mobile market for seniors and operating the Bloom Trailer for our Summer Food Program in Carey & Bellevue during which we'll provide lunches to children, run a mobile market for local residents and partner with the library to pass out books to read
- This is a youth development opportunity as well as a job. Interns participate in life skills workshops such as money management, healthy communication, nutrition and career building skills
- Throughout the program, interns set personal resiliency goals which are supported by their peers and mentors
- Come together as a team by engaging in team-building activities, doing farm work side by side, and preparing and eating meals together with produce from the farm

### How is the Program Structured?

- Bloom Youth Project balances structure and safety with opportunity for youth to develop individualized programs based on their personal needs, interests and goals
- Each youth signs a standards contract at the beginning of the season and receives weekly feedback from their mentors and peers
- Youth are paid \$8.50/hour and will receive payment bi-weekly. Interns will also receive seasonal bonuses based on merit and meeting certain milestones, and a farm produce allowance.

### How Can You Help?

Late applications and references will not be accepted. ***For the sake of the young person asking for your reference, please be sure to get your reference to us as soon as possible.*** We also encourage you to check in with this young person throughout the summer, should they be accepted. You are welcome to attend our Community Work Sessions during the internship; please call or email us for more information if you wish to attend. Thanks for all your help!