Some potential risk and safety issues to consider at
Service Learning placement sites
August 2, 2010

All sites
• Hazards associated with driving a vehicle on public streets to a site
• Hazards associated with taking public transportation to a site

School sites: Public and Private
• Illnesses typically spread through the child and adolescent populations
• Hazards from physical violence, particularly from adolescents

Shelters: Homeless, substance abuse, domestic violence
• Illnesses spread through an itinerant population with little access to medical care
• Hazards associated with mentally and psychologically unstable populations

Child Care
• Illnesses typically spread through the child and adolescent populations
• Physical injuries associated with lifting children

Immigration
• Illnesses (some very serious) often found in foreign, third-world countries, such as tuberculosis, typhoid fever, smallpox, etc.
• Risks of working with undocumented immigrants who may not want to disclose their immigration status

Incarceration
• Violent, often uncaring individuals
• Pressure to smuggle contraband into secure facilities
• Pressure to break institutional rules to benefit an inmate

Food Banks
• Hazards associated with working with the public (lack of control over the environment, assault risk)
• Illnesses spread through a population with little access to medical care
• Ergonomic stressors

Farms: Education
• Hazards working with farm equipment (note: those working around machinery should be thoroughly briefed on the safe operation of the machines.)
• Confined space and engulfment hazards, particularly in the silo storage of grain and silage, and in the collection of manure in pits
• Hazards of working with animals, i.e. physical injuries
- Illnesses from working with animals, i.e. zoonotic diseases
- Illnesses from vectors, i.e. West Nile from mosquitoes
- Ergonomic stressors
- Heat stress

Senior Centers
- Illnesses, possible contact with blood borne pathogens
- Injuries from physically assisting residents

Resources/referrals (front desk work, working with clients to complete paperwork, refer clients to resources to get utility bills, connect with other agencies, etc.)