

# **THE BENEFITS OF SUPERVISING/TRAINING A SOCIAL WORK FIELD STUDENT**

## **Benefits to the Agency/Organization**

- The agency has employees who are “happily engaged” and “challenged professionally” by their role as “field instructor” and are, therefore, more engaged in their work overall.
- Services to some “clients” or on some projects may be more intensive due to the student’s ability to spend more time with fewer “clients” or on fewer projects than full-time employees.
- Students are trained to do research and policy work and can do that for the agency as part of their field placement or Final Project.
- While students may be placed with a particular Field Instructor, the student and Field Instructor “may” choose to have the student work in other parts of the agency...on other agency-wide projects or a project in another program within the agency.
- The agency becomes a training and teaching site for future social workers; this shows commitment to the profession and to the community at large.
- Marketing materials for the agency can reflect its commitment to students by listing the employees who serve as Field Instructors and who are, therefore, Adjunct Faculty members within the Department of Social Work.

## **Benefits to Individual Field Instructors**

- Field Instructors are stimulated by interesting student-driven dialogue and questions re: practice and, therefore, their own skills are deepened and advanced.
- Field Instructors are appointed by the Dean as Adjunct Faculty members.
- Field Instructors receive a University ID card (CatCard) which gives them access to the University libraries, the Fitness Center, and a UVM e-mail account.
- Field Instructors receive “compensation” in the form of cash to the agency (professional development money).
- Field Instructors are able to receive professional development and experience in the area of social work supervision practice.
- Field Instructors are able to attend trainings (free) sponsored by the Department of Social Work and acquire CEU’s for their participation. These are especially helpful as they relate to licensure requirements.
- Field Instructors have the opportunity to become connected to the research, teaching, and scholarship of the Department.
- Field Instructors have the opportunity to connect with other agencies, organizations, and social workers through their membership in a larger group of Field Instructors.