A. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF AGENCY SETTING

We are a K-5 Elementary school serving 440 students and their families. We are a part of the Missoula County Public Schools.

B. DESCRIPTION OF CLIENT GROUP

We have an economically diverse population comprised primarily of families within the Rattlesnake and East Missoula communities. Approximately 35% of our school population qualifies for free or reduced meals. Approximately 55% of our students ride a bus to school daily. Our school population ranges from traditional family units to single parent families to families struggling with issues of parental incarceration, abandonment and literacy challenges. While many members of our population are actively involved in our school, our population also includes those who are reluctant to be engaged.

C. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Develop social skills through personal contacts with families - via making initial and follow up contacts with all families who are new to Rattlesnake Elementary, as well as with returning families.
- Assess needs within the school community (need varies from year to year).
- Establish contacts with community agencies in support of the school community.
- Inform families about the role of the Family Connection Center and the services provided.
- Plan, develop and implement family/school partnerships via planning and hosting family involvement activities. (These are held both during school hours and evening hours)
- Interact with students/Offer positive behavioral support.
D. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Students will be expected to:

- Work under the supervision of the Community Involvement Coordinator and the School Principal
- Abide by school policies and procedures, including maintaining confidentiality
- Be in attendance during days and times agreed upon by the student, the Community Involvement Coordinator and the School Principal
- Conduct themselves in a professional, reliable and responsible manner at all times, demonstrate the ability to work independently and carry out all assignments as agreed upon
- Work in conjunction with school faculty/parent groups in support of developing school culture and parent involvement
- Be able and willing to initiate contacts within the school community. The majority of our families with needs do not come to us. A student in this position will need to be able to take the initiative to identify needs and to seek out clients. *This practicum site differs in this respect from others, where clients typically approach the site for assistance. Thus, this situation requires greater initiative on the part of the student and an established comfort level with taking that initiative.
- Assist with assorted fundraising activities.