



TITLE: Street Outreach Volunteer

REPORTS TO: Street Outreach Program Coordinator

PROGRAM: Street Outreach Program

The Street Outreach volunteer will assist outreach staff with providing crisis intervention, emergency supplies, and referrals to runaway and homeless youth on the streets of Olympia.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Engage with runaway, homeless, and street dependent youth ages 12-24 years old in Olympia's downtown core through direct contact on the streets
- Assist in providing immediate crisis intervention to youth on the streets
- Provide resource info and referrals to youth on the streets by talking to them about their immediate needs and goals
- Become familiar with local resources that provide services to runaway and homeless youth
- Maintain the safety of the Street Outreach team by following all Street Outreach program safety guidelines
- Stay calm, alert, and at all times respond to the directions of outreach staff
- Demonstrate teamwork and open communication with the outreach team
- Attend quarterly Street Outreach team meetings in addition to ongoing trainings on an as needed basis
- Assist Street Outreach staff in tracking the delivery of services by tallying up contacts, referrals, and materials distributed at the end of every outreach shift
- Follow all CYS agency policies and procedures, RCWs, WACs, external regulations and Code of Ethics

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must pass Washington State Criminal History background check
- Must have at least one year's experience dealing directly with at-risk homeless youth
- Positive regard for young people, and a desire to work with runaway and homeless youth
- Ability to maintain the confidentiality of participant information
- Ability to approach young people and situations with a non-judgmental attitude
- A strong awareness of one's own personal boundaries, non-verbal communication styles, and a commitment to maintaining professional boundaries
- A strong awareness of one's own personal values and ability to not let those values impact your ability to meet youth where they are at
- Commitment to maintaining a positive work environment that values diversity and does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, class, faith or age

TIME COMMITMENT:

We ask all Street Outreach volunteers to commit to at least 1 year of service. This time commitment ensures that we can properly train you as a street outreach worker, and that the relationships you establish with youth remain consistent over a period of time.

- 8 hours of initial training before first outreach shift (may be broken into two 4 hr. trainings)
- 2-3 hour outreach shift once a month (usually between the hours of 530-830pm Tues, Thurs, or alternating Fri/Sat)
- 1-2 hour outreach team meeting once a quarter (every 3 months)
- 2-4 hour trainings per month on an as needed basis

BENEFITS:

- Exposure to working with a diverse group of young people
- Training and skill building opportunities that will be useful to you in many ways beyond the Street Outreach program (i.e. conflict resolution, public speaking, approaching strangers, crisis response, etc.)
- Having a better understanding of the plight of homeless youth and solutions to addressing homelessness
- Using your skills to directly impact the lives of young people in a positive way
- Better understanding of local resources and how to navigate those resources
- Networking and building relationships with other service providers, allies, and stakeholders in the community
- Giving back to your community in a substantial and meaningful way
- Joining a highly professional team of dedicated volunteers and outreach workers

TO APPLY:

- E-mail completed Volunteer Application (found at www.communityyouthservices.org or in person at 711 State Ave NE Olympia, WA 98506) to the Wanda Michael hr@communityyouthservices.org
- Please reference "Street Outreach Volunteer" in the subject line