

Good Shepherd Volunteers

www.gsvolunteers.org

Good Shepherd Volunteers collaborates with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to provide full-time volunteers with the opportunity to work in social service ministries and to use their God-given talents serving women, adolescents, and children affected by poverty, violence, and neglect. Developing relationships with the marginalized of our world empowers volunteers to grow in knowledge and faith that inspire them to lead a life of seeking justice.

Our volunteers **live in community with one another** and strive to learn more about **social justice, community, simplicity, and spirituality**.

Position: Parent Aide Volunteer, **McMahon Services Adolescent Unit, Good Shepherd Services**, Bronx, NY (www.goodshepherds.org)

Position Responsibilities:

- Supervise visitation between biological families and children on selected cases, occasionally on Saturdays
- Participate in the planning and implementation of various recreational and cultural activities for children and families, including holiday parties, visits for separated siblings, group trips with youth, etc.
- Complete required foster home visits on selected cases, when case workers are unavailable to do so
- Assess each child's functioning in the foster home and the care he/she is receiving from the foster family
- Meet with children to discuss and assess their needs and plan for meeting those needs with their families
- Observe and assess the quality of parent interaction, conduct parenting skills trainings, and facilitate positive interaction through the use of age appropriate toys, games, and play materials
- Provide special emotional support to children and families when situations require it, potentially involving visits to hospitals, jails, and attendance at wakes and funerals.
- Assist social service staff in transporting children in emergency situations, accompanying biological parents to selected appointments, one-to-one activities with "special needs" children, etc.
- Provide clear and timely written documentation of all activities for program records
- Participate in all agency trainings, unit meetings, special projects, etc.

Position Qualifications:

- Ability to work independently and with a team
- Possess flexibility, creativity, and ability to make quick decisions
- Ability to take initiative and take on tasks as decided by the supervisor
- Must have direct service experience through work or volunteering
- Must be 21 years of age or older with 2 years of college/work experience
- Spanish language skills a plus
- Experience with MS Word, Excel, Publisher and web design programs a plus
- Valid drivers license a plus

Benefits:

- Mentoring and professional supervision
- Housing and transportation costs
- Modest monthly stipend
- Medical and dental coverage
- Orientation, retreats, and workshop opportunities
- Two weeks vacation

Application Deadline: June 1, 2008 (positions filled on a first come first serve basis, the earlier the better!) Please visit www.gsvolunteers.org and hit the "apply now" button for an application.

Start date: Sunday, August 17, 2008

End date: July 31, 2009

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