

Bedford Volunteer Life Skills Coach

The Agency

The Calgary John Howard Society (CJHS) is a community-based charitable organization dedicated to reducing the incidence of crime and increasing community safety through preventative and restorative justice practices. To accomplish these ends, we provide direct services to individuals at risk, advocacy for effective responses to crime with the individuals involved and education for youth and adults in the community. The Calgary John Howard Society is committed to an organizational environment that recognizes the dignity and worth of each person. CJHS values diversity and inclusion and welcomes qualified applicants from all walks of life.

The Program

Bedford House's primary mandate is to ensure the safety, security, and wellbeing of the community at-large while meeting the social and clinical needs of offenders with issues requiring further programming and/or treatment. The activities carried out are designed to address the social and clinical needs of residents thereby minimizing the risk if offenders were simply released into the community at the end of their sentence. Bedford House has a total of 22 beds and provides housing for males ages 18 and over. The house is staffed 24/7 by at least two staff members. Residents staying at Bedford have been referred to CJHS by Correctional Services Canada for transition back into the community. All resident referrals are screened for suitability and risk management before being accepted. These men are from all walks of life and have committed a wide variety of offences. Successful candidates demonstrate positive motivation, some insight into their criminogenic factors and a willingness to address and change those factors.

The Position

The Volunteer Life Skills Coach will work directly with the people who live at Bedford House, offering support, information and guidance in the development of daily life skills as the residents access the community and build independence. The Coach will be supported by a Volunteer Supervisor and time will be committed to the volunteer's personal development including supervision, support, appraisal and training plans.

Responsibilities

- To assist the residents in developing realistic goals and life plans together with the staff team
- To assist in mentoring the tangible skills needed in daily living such as budgeting, household maintenance, housing and/or job searching, navigating the transit system and accompanying to appointments, when needed
- To assist in the development of intangible skills such as problem-solving, assertiveness, and the development of self-esteem and self-confidence
- To track each individual's progress and to maintain case files for reporting purposes, as required

Time Commitment

- Two times per week for two hours each time
- Days, evenings or weekends
- One-to-two clients together or at separate times during the week
- A one-year plus commitment to the program

Training

- Orientation and initial training are offered in addition to being able to participate in ongoing training sessions and events with the purpose of offering opportunities to the volunteer to better understand some of the issues impacting the people we serve.

Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate has applied.

Please submit your cover letter and resume to:

Gail McDougall – Volunteer Program Coordinator

Gail.mcdougall@cjhs.ca

The Calgary John Howard Society thanks all applicants; however, only those considered for an interview will be contacted.