



Volunteer Role Description Young Carers Program Facilitators



“When you cannot add days to life, add life to days.”

The Young Carers Program is an inter-agency strategy developed to meet the needs of Young Carers and their families by facilitating supportive programs throughout Toronto. During COVID-19, programs are being offered online. Programs focus on recreational, social, educational, and skill development activities.

We strive to foster resilience in Young Carers by creating opportunities for mutual support, fun, and optimal development, which aim to strengthen the resources within the youth as well as their families. The programs offered are therapeutic, recreational, educational, and social. These energetic programs offer a variety of discussions, activities, and games that help children and youth explore their caregiving role. There is often a focus on self-care, coping skills and having fun! The Young Carers Program strives to provide a safe space where Young Carers can connect with other young folks in similar situations.

Hospice Toronto enables access to appropriate care and support for those living with a life-limiting illness and their caregivers when and where they need it, wherever they are. We achieve this through our culture of caring and discovery, which is fuelled by passionate, dedicated volunteers, imaginative partnerships, and a focus on research and innovation.

Purpose:

Young Carers Program Facilitators assist with providing social, educational, and recreational programs for young people aged 5-18 who are who are in a caregiving role to a family member living with a chronic or terminal illness, disability, mental illness, addiction or language barrier.

Essential Requirements:

- Minimum 20 years of age
- Passion for working with children and youth
- Experience planning and facilitating activities for children and youth in a social-recreational setting and experience with sports, recreation, camp and other social activities is an asset
- Possess initiative, leadership, and risk management skills
- Must be enthusiastic, patient, and flexible
- Have a general understanding of child and youth development
- Desire to make a positive difference in the lives of children and their families
- Excellent listening, interpersonal and communication skills
- Empathetic, compassionate, mature, reliable, responsible
- Attentiveness and observation skills, particularly for virtual programming
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Committed to ensuring services are confidential, holistic, safe, inclusive, and accessible
- Willingness to grow in self-awareness around judgment, unconscious bias and assumptions that may impact the volunteer / client service relationship
- Able to stay grounded in situations of heightened emotion, crisis, or emergency
- Completion of Hospice Toronto and Young Carers training as required
- Up-to-date Vulnerable Sector Police Clearance. Hospice Toronto can support with this process
- Ability to speak languages in addition to English is an asset

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Responsibilities:

- To uphold all service users right to dignity, respect, self-determination, and quality of life, and where appropriate, to provide client-directed advocacy
- To adhere to Hospice Toronto's policies and procedures
- Volunteers will be engaging with children and youth during activities which help promote self-expression, coping skill development and resiliency in a fun and safe atmosphere.
- Volunteers must be able to provide quality care, role modeling, and supervision.
- Volunteers must be responsible, flexible, patient, and enthusiastic, and must have a strong interest in working with children in a team environment.
- To advise Hospice Toronto staff in a timely manner if unable to fulfill duties
- Ensure that you are in regular communication with staff, respond to requests for support in a timely manner, and make sure that necessary documentation (i.e.: monthly volunteer hours report) is submitted
- Complete all required training and participate in ongoing education and professional development
- Maintain safe boundaries, work within the scope of the volunteer role and commit to developing and maintaining ongoing self-care practices
- Report any concerns immediately to appropriate staff and provide adequate notice of changes in volunteer availability and status
- Volunteers will sign and comply with the policies, procedures, tasks, responsibilities, and practices of their assigned role.

Duties:

- Plan, lead and facilitate programs, especially if you have a particular skill set to teach
- Help at our March Break and Summer day camps
- Assist with prepping for programs and administrative tasks
- Programs run 4-6 times a month and happen during the evenings and on weekends
- Evenings programs are 2-3 hours long and the weekend programs are 5-8 hours long.
- March break and Summer camps run from 9:00am to 4:00pm daily
- The first week of summer camp is for our LIT (Leader in Training) program where we work with members 12+ to foster and develop leadership skills that they can apply later during week two of summer camp. All three weeks are filled with skill-development, learning, activities, special guests, and lots of fun.

Limitations:

- Volunteers must follow the policies and procedures of Hospice Toronto and work within the scope of their volunteer role
- Volunteers are not to engage in relationships with clients and families outside the scope of their role
- Volunteers must sign Confidentiality and Volunteer agreements and understand that failure to meet the standards set may result in termination

Key Relationships:

YCP Program Coordinators, Manager of Volunteer Services

Supports for Success:

Young Carers volunteer training and skills development, educational opportunities at Hospice Toronto and in the community, individual support & supervision, ongoing communication with and appreciation of volunteers, Volunteer Mutual Support gatherings.

Commitment:

- 4-8 hours of volunteering each month based on programming needs.
- We send out e-blasts monthly with upcoming volunteer opportunities and you can sign up based on your availability.
- During March break and Summer camp, if you are available, we ask for support Monday through to Friday from 8:30am – 4:00pm
- Minimum commitment of 6 months after clearance is received