YouthLink Job Opening:

Youth Advocate (9am-5pm, 5pm-1pm, 1am-9am)

Be a part of building a strong and supportive community for youth.

About YouthLink

Founded in 1977, YouthLink is a leader in the Twin Cities for guiding young people (ages 18-24) experiencing homelessness to believe and use their own potential to achieve long-term stability and self-reliance. YouthLink provides inclusive services to move youth forward on their journeys to holistic, integrated education, employment and housing stability. YouthLink also serves as the host site for the Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) a “one-stop shop” of multiple community partners all focused on serving homeless youth. More than 1800 young people seek services at YouthLink annually. In partnership with two affordable housing agencies, YouthLink also provides supportive services in more than 90 units of transitional and permanent supportive housing throughout the city.

Our Mission

At YouthLink, our mission is to support and empower young people on their journey to self-reliance.

Our Vision

To be a community where all youth, without regard to their living situation, have an equal opportunity to pursue their goals and dreams, and an equal likelihood of achieving them.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Youth Advocate provides safety, stability, and well-being for youth experiencing homelessness (18-24). Based on the 9 Guiding Principles for overcoming youth homelessness, Youth Advocates use culturally inclusive, positive youth development strategies integrated within the overall YouthLink wellness model.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

PROGRAM SUPPORT:

- Be part of a team providing effective 24/7 intervention, guidance and navigation for youth.
- Ensure youth, volunteers, interns, and visitors adhere to YouthLink rules and procedures and monitor the safety of YouthLink property.
- Provide crisis intervention and mediation support for youth and staff as needed.
- Assess needs of clients and address appropriately.
- Practice inclusive understanding and respect for youth culture, families, and family systems. Use the 9 Guiding Principles of good practice and holistic wellness with youth in a non-judgmental ways.
- Implement the core competencies of Positive Youth Development (belonging, competence, usefulness, and inclusion) in interactions with youth.
• Use harm-reduction and youth-empowerment models to provide on-going support, skill building, and crisis management.
• Be actively available, nimble and supportive to evening shifts, including substituting for other shifts if needed.
• Actively participate in your own self-care to manage stress and build resiliency against secondary trauma.

**DOCUMENTATION:**
• Accurately and promptly document intakes, put in MARRS.
• Consistently record actual services received by youth.
• Collect and maintain accurate data on an ongoing basis.

**FACILITY MAINTENANCE & SAFETY:**
• Ensure doors are locked and closed; patrol the property as needed
• Document any maintenance concerns in a timely and appropriate manner
• Be well versed and able to execute all YouthLink safety policies and procedures.

**POSITION OUTCOMES:**
• 100% of unduplicated drop-in youth from shifts complete an intake assessment.
• 70% of unduplicated drop-in youth from shifts are to long-term housing and/or evaluated for employment and educational services readiness.
• 90% of unduplicated drop-in youth from shifts have case files with complete intake assessment data

**AGENCY REPRESENTATION:**
• Maintain professional boundaries as established by the organization in all interactions with youth, co-workers, partners, and the community.
• Ensure positive and professional representation of the agency in interactions with youth, co-workers, partners, and the community.
• Understand and apply Guiding Principles to work with clients, staff, and community and partner agencies.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:**
Youth Advocates must have some combination of relevant college courses and work experience in human services and/or with vulnerable youth populations.

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:**
• Be able to provide non-judgmental services, including demonstrating acceptance of a variety of lifestyles, behaviors, and cultural and spiritual practices.
• Understand and have working knowledge of youth homelessness, cultural inclusion and competence, sexual identity/preference (LGBTQ), substance abuse, mental health and trauma, abuse, and adolescent development.
• Participate positively in the collaborative, holistic nature of agency and program development in an interdisciplinary team setting;
• Be able to verbally and physically respond to aggression when necessary in ways that de-escalate and establish and maintain staff and client safety.
• Have strong interpersonal skills.
• Be able to manage time effectively.
• Have effective oral and written communication skills.
• Exhibit a high degree of professionalism.
• Be mission-driven and willing to incorporate agency philosophy in service delivery.
• Be comfortable with Microsoft Office applications.

LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS
• Valid MN State Driver’s License required to transport clients. In addition to driver’s license, insurance required to transport clients in a personal vehicle.

BENEFITS

YouthLink’s competitive and comprehensive benefits package includes:
• Medical
• Dental
• Life Insurance
• Long Term Disability

HOW TO APPLY

E-mail a cover letter and resume with the subject line “Youth Advocate” to careers@youthlinkmn.org.

Equal Employment Opportunity: YouthLink shall seek to ensure and provide equal opportunity for all persons seeking employment without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, national origin, disability, or any other characteristic as established by law.

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