



Together We 'Hang' Youth/Buddy Volunteer Position

FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism is a charitable program dedicated to serving families who have a child (or children) diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder by providing much-needed respite opportunities. By providing respite care and not therapy, FOOTPRINTS is an affordable service for families already burdened with the high costs (in both time and money) of caring for a child affected by autism or one of its related disorders. Largely volunteer-based, our culture is one of respect, safety and caring.

Position Summary:

Social Program for Youth (14-21yrs) on the Autism Spectrum and their Peers. Youth on the Autism Spectrum are paired with a volunteer - their peer, for a social gathering fostering inclusion, acceptance and friendship.

Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Provide companionship to of a youth participants diagnosed with Autism; this includes:
 - Ensuring the safety of the participant while participating in the program
 - Providing an environment for the participant to develop social skills, build friendships
- Assist the Program Coordinator in setting up and/or taking down of FOOTPRINTS activity stations
- Take direction from and report to the Program Consultant; provide on-going feedback to enhance the program for the clients and volunteers
- Dress appropriately for each shift

Qualifications:

- Compassion and empathy for the needs of families living with a child/children diagnosed with ASD
- Experience working with people affected by ASD and/or other mental health challenges (preferred)
- Patience with those affected by mental health challenges (incl. non-verbal, inattentive and aggressive children)
- Desire to provide a safe, happy and caring environment where children can learn, grow and explore
- Demonstrate professional manner when interacting with the individual children and their families
- Minimum age 14 for all volunteers
- Must submit to a Police Records Check with Vulnerable Person Sector check (if over 16 years of age)
- Understand and sign FOOTPRINTS Confidentiality Agreement and Abuse Policy

Position Commitment:

- Attend Introduction to Autism & Program Orientation (4 hours). If volunteer wishes to commit to a year and continue volunteering during our weekly respite for children under 13 years of age, other training: Standard First Aid/CPR and Behaviour Management Systems Training is available.

Location: Pickering Public Library – Main Branch

- **Wednesdays:** Able to commit to a minimum of 5 hours per month (two shifts). Shift runs from 3:45 pm – 6:15 pm.

For more information about FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism, please visit: www.footprints4autism.org
Julie Cashin-Oster, Operations Manager 905-420-0388 ext. 3 or julie@footprints4autism.org