

JOB POSTING
Individual Counsellor
Full Time Contract – 13 month contract
YELLOW BRICK HOUSE/PROJECT HOSTEL

Yellow Brick House/Project Hostel is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to providing services to women who have experienced gender-based violence. Yellow Brick House provides emergency shelter, transitional housing and supportive services to individuals identifying as female and their children in York Region. Services are provided within a supportive environment that facilitates empowerment to help individuals and their children regain control of their lives.

Purpose of Position:

1. To provide transitional housing and individual counselling support to individuals identifying as female who are transitioning to violence-free lives in the community.
2. To advocate and connect with various community agencies for ongoing support and assistance as needed.
3. To assist in the development of safety planning for addressing immediate and future safety concerns and needs.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Direct Service:

- Provide short term (approx. 6 months) support to individuals identifying as women
- Develop and implement transition plans which are sensitive to client needs
- Act as a resource to staff and clients in the area of mental health and the dynamics of gender-based violence and abuse
- Assist clients to develop short and long term goals
- Complete intake and discharge interviews with clients
- Support evaluation tasks as identified within agency, in gathering necessary information from clients and/or supporting clients to complete surveys
- Assist clients to understand the cycle of violence and the effects of violence on themselves and their children
- Provide emotional support for clients
- May accompany clients to service related appointments if necessary and appropriate
- Assist clients to develop safety plans for self and children.

Referral and Advocacy:

- Assess client needs and make appropriate referrals to agencies in York Region and GTA
- Advocate with Ontario Works, Housing Authorities, Police, CAS and other agencies for the benefit of clients

Logging:

- Maintains daily confidential, pertinent, accurate and non-judgmental logging on each client as per Yellow Brick House procedures
- Ensures that intake/discharge and all other required information is complete and entered accurately on WISH
- Ensures statistics are entered accurately at the assigned reporting cycle

Maintenance and Administration:

- Ensure that health and safety standards of the office are met
- Maintain and keep updated, a resource library for client use

Other:

- Engage fully and openly in supervision; keeping supervisor fully informed of relevant client and staff member information, at all times
- Active positive participation in regular team meetings
- Maintain a positive approach and a professional manner at all times
- Read, understand and follow agency policies and procedures
- Keeps up-to date on issues relating to gender-based violence and evidence-based practices for intervention
- Conduct agency presentations as requested about service – with partner York Region agencies
- Maintain community awareness of YBH programs throughout York Region
- Other duties as assigned

MINIMUM EDUCATION/ EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Completion of a clinically supervised undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited university (e.g. BSW)
- Language requirement: Excellent English skills required, as well as other language used widely by Yellow Brick House client population
- 2 – 3 years of experience working within the gender-based violence sector, ideally in a counselling setting
- A certificate in trauma counselling, substance abuse counselling, mental health counselling, life skills or another related specialty would be an asset
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of gender-based violence
- Ability to work under pressure and within the context of the team structure and atmosphere
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to deal effectively with job related stress and handle crisis situations effectively, both in person and by telephone
- Ability to deliver culturally appropriate services in a multicultural environment
- Ability to work within an anti-oppression framework
- Knowledge of the Canadian legal system (immigration and criminal law and refugee issues) as it relates to abused immigrant women would be an asset
- Ability to multi task and prioritize workload
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Valid Driver's License and confirmation of \$1M liability insurance
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, e-mail and the Internet

Hours: 37.5 hours per week (5 days per week) – flexible hours required

Starting Date: to be arranged, ideally as soon as possible

Reporting to: Supervisor, Direct Services

Other: A police vulnerable sector screening is required by the successful candidate prior to hiring.

Apply by cover letter and resume to:

Manvir Bhangu, Supervisor of Direct Services, Yellow Brick House
manvirb@yellowbrickhouse.org

We thank all candidates for their interests, however only those selected for interviews will be contacted. We regret we are unable to accept any telephone or e-mail enquires. Yellow Brick House is a feminist organization that promotes the principles of anti-oppression. We encourage applications from individuals of all races, colours, ethnic origins, religions, abilities and sexual orientations.