

CHILDREN'S COUNSELLOR - male
YELLOW BRICK HOUSE/PROJECT HOSTEL
Part-Time Position – June 2022-March 2023

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:

The Children's Counsellor works directly with children who have been exposed to domestic violence. The Children's Counsellor works closely with the mother/caregiver in addressing children's needs and supporting the mother/caregiver in utilizing healthy parenting skills to address the child's needs.

Hours of Work: 20 hours per week – **flexible hours required for evening and weekend work**

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide counselling to children and youth who have been impacted by the presence of violence in their home
- Conduct intake and discharge interviews with clients as required
- Consult with other clinical staff to gather relevant information regarding children's behaviour and needs
- Complete assessment of child's counselling needs, as well as determine (together with child and caregiver) the most appropriate intervention
- Make appropriate referrals to agencies within York Region and Metropolitan Toronto (eg. Ontario Works, Housing, Legal Aid, CAS, Police)
- Promote a flexible, culturally sensitive and supportive intervention, focused directly on children coming from homes with domestic violence
- Facilitate family's capacity to make decisions in an effort to strengthen family life
- Assist mothers/caregivers to identify and develop plans that will meet the needs of child and family as a whole, including safety plans
- Implement case plans sensitive to the needs of clients
- Assist mothers/caregivers to understand the cycle of violence and the effects of violence on children
- Timely, relevant documentation of case notes in data base
- Liaison with Children's Aid Societies, to facilitate referrals, and maintain a positive relationship
- Presentations as required to educate about YBH and about the effect of witnessing violence on children

Case Management:

- Liaises and advocates with community agencies to facilitate an awareness and understanding of children's needs
- Identifies geographically based referral bases, develops referring relationships

- Facilitates families' connection to ethno-specific services

Maintenance and Administration:

- Maintains confidential, pertinent, accurate and non-judgemental logging on WISH (agency database) of all client contacts
- Ensures that intake/discharge and all other required information is completed and entered
- Ensures that stats and client notes are completed at the end of each week
- Provides quarterly reports on program delivery, effectiveness and initiatives
- Ensures health and safety standards of the office are met
- Plans programming expenditure within budget allocations
- Participates in ongoing program evaluation

General:

- Reads, understands and adheres to policies and procedures of PROJECT HOSTEL O/A Yellow Brick House
- Engages fully and openly in supervision; keeping Supervisor fully informed at all times
- Attends staff training sessions as required
- Identifies and sets professional development goals annually
- Works within a team environment; provides support and information to team members and assists other staff when required
- Maintains a positive approach and a professional manner at all times
- Fosters and maintains an anti-oppression working environment
- Performs any other duties as required
- Able to offer a combination of in person and virtual counselling sessions

Minimum Education/Experience Requirements:

- Completion of a clinically supervised undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited university (e.g. BSW, MSW)
- Fluency/competency in a second language either spoken by a large number of clients or that is required by Project Hostel
- 2 to 3 years counselling experience
- Experience working with children and/or youth
- A specialized certificate in working with youth would be an asset
- In depth knowledge of the dynamics of gender based violence and its effect on children and youth is required
- Ability to work under pressure and within the context of the team structure
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to deal effectively with job related stress and handle crisis situations
- Ability to work within an anti-oppression framework
- Knowledge and understanding of trauma, mental health issues, advocacy, substance abuse, employment, child development and parenting 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
- Presentation skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, e-mail and the Internet

Hours: 20 hours per week– flexible hours required

Starting Date: as soon as possible

Reporting to: Supervisor, Direct Services

Other: A "clear" 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 genders, races, ethnic origins, religions, abilities and sexual orientations.