**New Canadian Youth Connection**



**Position:** New Canadian Youth Connection (NCYC) Volunteer

**Purpose of Position:** To create connections with newcomer refugee youth through planned weekly recreational activities and homework club. Circles of Support is a very simple concept: having a community of volunteers build relationships with refugee youth to help them integrate more fully into Canada. Volunteers strengthen the support systems around refugee youth to increase their sense of belonging.

**Goals of Circles of Support**

* To create healthy connections between refugee youth and volunteers which can help them to integrate into Canada and build genuine friendships
* To build a culture of belonging and inclusion in Waterloo Region and beyond
* Create a culture of learning both for youth and volunteers through sharing experiences and cultures.
* Build stronger connections between refugee youth and the resources available to them in Waterloo Region

**Skills, Competencies and Requirements**

* 18 years old or older
* Caring, friendly, open-minded, reliable
* Sensitive to the barriers experienced by refugee youth
* Participate in recreational activities focusing on sporting activities, music, and arts and crafts.
* Be able to pass the Community Justice Initiative (CJI) screening process
* Ability to adhere to all CJI Reception House confidential policy
* Exhibit good judgment and have the ability to balance setting safe and friendly boundaries
* Attend peer support/supervision meetings when scheduled
* Second language an asset
* Access to a car an asset

**Time Commitment:** We require a minimum commitment of one year consisting of one evening a week from 4:30pm-6:30pm on Monday (Homework club), Wednesday (Homework club) or Thursday (Rec night).

**Benefits**

Volunteers have the opportunity to build new friendships with youth from various cultural backgrounds. They have the chance learn more about different cultures and the barriers that refugee youth face in Canada and around the world. They will leave with strong interpersonal skills, cultural sensitivity as well as volunteer hours and a reference from our staff.

**Responsibilities**

To be respectful of all those you interact with and to adhere to confidentiality policies. To act as a positive role model for refugee youth who are integrating into our community. To remain in contact with circles of support staff’s on a regular basis. To act as an advocate for the circles of support program, and to attend peer support/activities when required.

**Training**

A five-hour volunteer training and agency orientation is required. All volunteers are required to complete volunteer screening which includes an interview, criminal records for CRC vulnerable sector, reference check and submission of a volunteer application and resume.

**Supervision**

Supervision is provided by staff members from Reception House and Community Justice Initiative (CJI) on an ongoing basis. Peer supports will be scheduled on an ongoing basis to address any additional supervision and support needs. There will be 3, 6 and 12 months program, volunteer and supervision evaluation.