

Volunteer Role Overview

Stride is seeking kind, open-minded, and dedicated community members to engage in group and individual activities with criminalized people in Waterloo region. Our programming takes place in Grand Valley Institution for Women, and in the community. During Stride Night, volunteers participate in a range of recreational activities. After 6 months of volunteering, volunteers are eligible to take Stride Circles Training and learn more about offering support for those reintegrating into the community.

Skills, Competencies and Requirements:

- 25 years of age or older
- Successfully complete a Reliability Clearance process
- Commitment to participating in anti-racist, anti-oppressive programming
- Participation in activities such as crafts, music, and board games while modelling openness to new experiences
- Exhibit good judgment and have the ability to balance setting safe and friendly boundaries
- Attend all peer support/supervision meetings when scheduled
- Openness to joining a Stride Circle to offer (re)integration support for people transitioning out of Grand Valley Institution (this requires an additional training)
- Additional language(s) an asset
- Commitment to transportation to Grand Valley Institution; either through bussing, carpooling, or driving

Commitment:

- We ask for a minimum commitment of one year
- Weekly Attendance: Tuesdays from 6:15 - 9pm
- An openness to offering reintegration support in the community through Stride Circles (After 6 months of being part of Stride)

We ask that our volunteers join us in approaching this work from an anti-oppressive, anti-racist framework. At its core, this work calls all of us to journey toward challenging our own bias, influence, conscious and unconscious beliefs, from a colonized world view that is designed to exclude. This work requires us to adapt, change, and experience new relationships and learnings. This work will not be easy. We will be uncomfortable, and we will experience hard lessons. We will experience personal growth and knowledge to better resist practices and systems of oppression. Community Justice Initiatives is committed to doing the hard, slow and nuanced work of cultivating an anti-racist and anti-oppressive, inclusive organizational culture.

To express your interest in Stride, please fill out the volunteer application survey on our website. We run Stride training 3 times a year. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Amelia at ameliam@cjiwr.com

