

Career Night at the Village

OVERVIEW: Presbyterian Children's Village offers a continuum of child welfare services; a good overview is available on our website, www.pcv.org. For the purpose of this volunteer opportunity, we are focused on the Rosemont campus, which serves the youth in the Residential Treatment and Semi-Independent Living (SIL) programs. The Village can serve up to 60 youths between the ages of 13 and 18 in the Residential Treatment program. They stay here for about 7 months as they receive treatment for behavioral health issues that have often been compounded by abuse and neglect and various traumas in their lives. These youth attend our fully licensed on-grounds school and take part in an array of therapeutic activities that help them to develop life skills and hobbies. Another 10 youth are older adolescents who reside in the Semi-Independent Living apartments, receiving supportive services until they are more able to live on their own. Most of them are transitioning out of foster care or a group residence and must be employed or enrolled in an educational program. Our Career Nights target residential youth who are juniors or seniors in high school as well as the youth in the SIL program.

We need your help. As a professional in our community, you can provide tremendous inspiration to these youth who have had few role models in their lives. You can plant a seed of an idea that may develop into a direction for training and a job.

- **HOW LONG, HOW OFTEN?** In most instances, you will be part of a panel of 2-3 presenters. Each presenter should take about 10 minutes. The rest of the hour will be devoted to discussion and Q & A with the students. This will most likely be a one-time session. However, if you are interested in providing a mini-series on related jobs in your field, we are open to that as well.
- **WHAT TO INCLUDE**
 - **Very basic information**, such as the types of interests or skills that could lead to this as a career/job choice
 - **Points of Entry** What training does one need? Where would one start? You should emphasize starting and supporting positions one might consider for a job in this field (e.g., if interested in landscaping, what do the helpers do; if interested in a medical field but not aspiring to be a physician, describe some aide or tech support opportunities)
 - **Visual aids** are helpful.
 - **Handouts**, if you use them at all, should be very general, simple, targeted for an audience that may include individuals who do not read well.
- **THE SETTING** for your Career Night presentation will be a classroom area on the Rosemont campus, 452 S. Roberts Rd., located between Ithan Avenue and Conestoga. One or more staff persons will be present at all times to offer assistance as needed, answer any questions that arise, and generally support your presentation.

QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

Will I be by myself? No, never.

What if I have no experience with teenagers—and especially special-needs teenagers? Experience is not required! This is a one-time chance to share valuable information with our special population of teenagers. If you decide you like this, you may want to do it again—or in a series. If you don't, that's OK too. Our staff will work with you to make this a good experience for you and for the youth.

For additional information related to this item, please contact:

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