

Youth Engagement and Outreach Worker

StepStones for Youth (www.stepstonesforyouth.com) is an innovative and dynamic charitable organization in Toronto dedicated to creating positive and meaningful connections; increase school engagement, high school graduation, and post-secondary enrolment; and increase stable housing, improved mental and physical health, and strong support networks. *At StepStones we believe every youth in and from foster care deserves the opportunity to thrive.*

Do you want to make an impact on vulnerable youth in our communities?

We are looking for a **Youth Engagement and Outreach Worker** to join our growing team. In this role you will be responsible for promoting the engagement of youth who are currently residing in foster homes, group homes and youth who have recently exited the child welfare system.

What you will be responsible for:

- Plan and execute 400+ annual activities intended to engage and foster connection between youth and the foster parents, agencies, and other service providers in the community.
- Create service partnerships by connect with youth serving organizations in the community. Partnerships services could include mindfulness programs, arts and media programs, Black and Indigenous serving organizations, sports and recreational programs, substance abuse/drinking awareness programs, skills-based programming.
- Foster partnership that results in the creation of customized programming for youth in the program and co-facilitate these initiatives.
- Connect and co-facilitate awareness building activities that will result in youth producing video, art, photography, testimonies, and podcasts outlining their lived experiences.

You have the ability or knowledge of:

- Develop and maintain a respectful, cooperative working relationships with youth, youth programming, communities, and service workers to promote an integrated, seamless delivery of service.
- Apply an attitude and practice model that promotes flexibility, positivity, and engagement with marginalized populations.
- Work within a multi-disciplinary team, as well as manage and maintain public inquiries.
- Work beyond normal working hours is required. Some evenings and weekend work required.
- At-risk youth-related issues, such as addictions, sexual orientation/identity, peer/social culture, human development, violence, early pregnancy, gangs etc.
- Flexible, diverse, traditional, and non-traditional support, advocacy, and intervention processes.
- Harm reduction philosophy and working strategies.
- Micro and macro community social systems, structures, and issues.
- Community assets and asset mapping procedures.

What we're looking for:

- Valid full G Class Ontario Driver's License, reliable access to a vehicle and the appropriate insurance are required.
- Experience and/or working knowledge of adolescent development, community outreach, and engagement strategies for marginalized youth.
- Experience in working with diverse cultures and communities. A thorough understanding of anti-oppression, anti-Black and Indigenous racism, diversity, LGBTQ+ positive and anti-poverty values and principles.
- Strong working knowledge of services, resources, and activity focused programming organizations available for youth in Ontario.
- Sound knowledge of the child welfare system and the issues affecting youth in this system.
- Highly effective written and oral communication skills, problem solving, advocacy and assessment skills.
- Effective interpersonal skills including the ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively with internal and external resources and community partnerships.
- Ability to manage crisis, conflict and adverse situations with staff, youth and families/
- Strong computer/Internet skills and knowledge of case management systems, reporting procedures and responsibilities and the ability to work within those systems.
- Strong organizational, and time management skills; accountability, reliability, and punctuality; and the ability to work effectively and independently under the pressure of tight timelines, competing priorities and emergent issues.
- Ability to work co-operatively and negotiate effectively within a multi-disciplinary team of service providers.
- Knowledge of and sensitivity to the life experiences and needs of youth from the foster care community. Lived experience preferred.

What we offer:

- Collaborative and supportive team
- Competitive annual salary (\$50,000 - \$60,000)
- Health and dental benefits package
- Generous paid vacation
- Flexible work hours
- Casual dress code and work environment
- Professional development opportunities

StepStones adheres to all public health guidelines for COVID-19 before attending the office or meeting youth in the community.

We value and celebrate diversity

We are committed to a selection process and work environment that is inclusive and barrier free. We encourage applications from all backgrounds and communities and are committed to having a team that is made up of people with diverse skills, experiences, and abilities. We actively encourage BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ applicants to apply and we value the positive impact that difference has on our teams. We are committed to equality and diversity within our workforce and in all opportunities provided at StepStones. Accommodations will be provided in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Applicants are invited to submit a cover letter and resumé to the job platform. Please reference **“Youth Engagement and Outreach Worker”** in the subject line.

We thank all applicants for their interest in this position; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls or in person submissions please.