Peer Leader

Join our team! You could play an important role at Cocoon House.

We empower young people, families, and communities to break the cycle of homelessness through outreach, housing and prevention. Through our programs, we serve hundreds of youth, families, and young adults throughout Snohomish County. To learn more, please visit our website at http://www.cocoonhouse.org

We're looking for a Peer Leader –

Job purpose: The Peer Leader is responsible for building healthy, supportive relationships with program participants and assisting Cocoon House staff with providing supportive services to all program participants. A Peer Leader is someone who has experience navigating the challenges and barriers of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and is able to use that experience to help guide program participants that are having a similar experience. In this role, the Peer Leader acts as a point of connection between other Cocoon House staff and the similarly-aged program participants with whom the Peer Leader may have life experiences in common.

Hours: Part-time, 20 hours per week

Pay: $18.00 per hour DOE

Reports to: SYAH Program Manager

Benefits: Eligible for benefits after 60 days

Duties and responsibilities:

- Act as a unique avenue for communication with program participants, including regular check-ins.
- Assist navigators in achieving program goals and providing supportive services, including addressing chemical dependency, mental health, employment, education, financial, housing and documentation needs.
- Assist program participants in navigating the challenges associated with homelessness and their current/previous system involvement (juvenile justice, foster care, behavioral health, and McKinney-Vento). This can include providing or helping youth connect to socio-emotional support as well as offering advice on practical life skills and positive youth development.

Qualifications:

- First-hand experience of the challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness (such as housing instability, financial strain, familial conflict, legal difficulties, chemical dependency, etc.)
- First-hand experience or knowledge of the following systems or programs: juvenile justice, foster care, behavioral health, or McKinney-Vento
- Strong relationship-building skills, including tolerance and empathy for individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures
• Professional competency, including strong organization, time management, teamwork and adaptability
• Enthusiasm for working with and supporting others
• Openness to adapting strategies and approaches to work, both personally and in concert with Cocoon House, to constantly seek ways to better support program participants
• The youth served in this position are between 18 – 24 years of age, and as a bona fide occupational qualification for the peer leader, the candidate must also be in the same age range of 18 -24.

Working conditions:

• Mobility: ability to sit for long periods, move about an office, stand occasionally, reach above and below desk level
• Dexterity: fine manipulation sufficient to operate a keyboard, handle individual papers, write and take notes
• Lifting: occasional lifting of papers, files, equipment and material weighing up to 25 pounds
• Visual Requirements: close vision sufficient to read files, documents, and computer screens and do close-up work; ability to adjust focus frequently
• Hearing/Talking: ability to hear typical speech, speak and hear on the telephone, and speak in person
• Emotional/Psychological Factors: ability to make decisions and concentrate; frequent contact with others including some public contact; frequent deadlines and time-limited assignments

Physical requirements:

• Must have the ability to run up and down indoor and outdoor stairwells in case of youth emergency.
• Communicate effectively with youth, staff, other programs, vendors and the public, both orally and in writing.
• Hear voice conversations and alarms.
• Possess close vision, far vision, side vision, depth perception, visual ability to read a variety of materials.
• Dexterity of hands and fingers to reach, handle and operate telephone, computer keyboard, record information in appropriate youth files and logs.

Cocoon House will provide reasonable accommodation to qualified persons with disabilities if requested.

Cocoon House is strongly committed to removing barriers and supporting inclusion and diversity in all its forms. We strive to create a safe and open atmosphere for young people, families, staff, board members, community partners and funders. We learn from the diverse individuals we work with and embrace their unique attributes to ensure we fulfill our agency mission and core values.

Cocoon House is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We seek to provide equal opportunity for all persons without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, gender expression, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, national origin, or any other characteristic protected under the law. People of color and members of the LGBTQ community are strongly encouraged to apply.

We are dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse and pluralistic workforce, committed to working in a multicultural environment and we strongly encourage applications from veterans, and marginalized populations; including people of color, women and those in the LGBTQ community. We encourage those with personal experience with homelessness to apply.
**How to apply:** If you are interested in this position, please email a resume and cover letter, in Word or PDF format, along with your personal email address, to chris.eck@cocoonhouse.org. Please note that no phone calls will be accepted, and only those candidates who are being considered will be contacted.

Check out all of our employment opportunities at: http://www.cocoonhouse.org/employment