



Community Garden Coordinator

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Scarborough Food Security Initiative (Feed Scarborough) is a community driven and led charity in South Scarborough focused on Food Insecurity and Poverty in the region. Born out of the 2020 pandemic, Feed Scarborough has three levels of approach to Food Insecurity. The “Urgent Need approach (We run 4 Food Banks, Mobile Soup Kitchens and Covid Vaccine awareness Programmes), The “Long Term Sustainable” approach (We run business incubation programme for our clients, Culinary and Hospitality training programme for Youth, Community Gardens and training on growing sustainable food), The “Systemic” approach (We realize that we can never solve the food insecurity problem without significant policy change. Food is a Human Right in Canada, and we need our governments to uphold the commitment that Canada made over 50 years ago. Currently we serve over 1000 Families every week through our programmes.

ROLE OVERVIEW

The Community Garden Coordinator is responsible for facilitating garden groups in starting and maintaining community gardens. The Community Garden Coordinator will be able to draw from our department’s wealth of experience, curricula and volunteers. The Community Garden Coordinator will be under the supervision of the Operations Manager, who will provide guidance and support. The primary role of the Community Garden Coordinator will be to support the gardens that Scarborough Food Security Initiative manages and operates by coordinating community outreach and garden volunteers, facilitating meetings, and providing on-site educational programming and technical assistance to the garden community. The position requires strong interpersonal skills, community organizing experience and a passion for gardening education and food justice.

Position Responsibilities:

Programmatic:

- Serve as the primary point of contact for community garden groups new and currently in our programs
- Maintain communication with these gardeners through email, phone, and social media
- Coordinate and facilitate planning meetings to design, build, and maintain the gardens
- Work alongside volunteers to build garden infrastructure
- Support the community garden leaders at each site; address their needs in managing the day-to-day gardening activities, including any problems or emergencies that may arise
- Lead - and facilitate others in leading - regular on-site educational opportunities for gardeners
- Conduct regular site visits at each garden to assess plant health, deliver materials, etc.
- Represent Scarborough Food Security Initiative at relevant community events in the neighborhoods where the gardens are located
- Share responsibilities at the Garden Resource Center, a tool lending library and bulk materials depot



General:

- Make purchases and coordinate deliveries for each project
- Track purchasing for each assigned project
- Manage data collection for internal evaluation to measure our programs' impacts
- Attend weekly departmental meetings.
- Document community engagement with photos, quotes, etc.
- Maintain social media presence by providing photos and materials for Feed Scarborough's newsletter and blog posts
- Manage time well to ensure that all required tasks are completed within allotted hours

KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

Programmatic:

- Significant experience with community organizing and community outreach required
- Demonstrated ability to engage with individuals of many demographics and histories i.e. youth, elders, immigrants, economically diverse, people of color
- Excellent planning and organizational skills, including the ability to plan events and organize volunteers
- Ability to manage several task lists at once and adapt to changing conditions (weather, volunteer cancellations)
- A minimum of 3 years experience in food growing
- Ability to teach gardening concepts to a variety of learners
- Some experience in carpentry and/or landscaping
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather (heat, humidity, rain and cold) and do manual labor

General:

- Willingness to work independently and also cooperate as part of a team
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including public speaking
- Positive attitude; engaging personality
- An understanding of and commitment to food justice and Feed Scarborough's values
- Experience with MS Word, Powerpoint, Excel and willingness to learn other computer-based skills

We are excited to talk to you about the opportunity to join our team! Please Email your cover letter, resume to : hr@feedscarborough.ca

Application Deadline: Till the position is filled

Job Types: Part-time, 6 Month Contract (26 weeks), In person
April 1 – October 1, 2023

Salary: \$20 per hour

Schedule:

- 30 hours per week
- Flexible Schedule based on need