

Job Description: Volunteer Youth Trainer

The VWV Youth Trainer teaches prepared curricula to refugee youth that help them build identity, manage stress to ensure wellness, and build leadership skills.

Victory Women of Vision (VWV) is a nonprofit IRS 501(c)3 organization located in Manchester, NH. The mission of the Refugee Youth Training Program is to help refugee youth as they face life in a new country and culture. They learn that the process of adapting takes time because of the impact of culture shock, which can affect every member of the family differently. The focus of the training is first on building identity, managing stress to ensure wellness, and finally building leadership skills.

As adolescents and teenagers are just forming their identities, they can feel particularly overwhelmed. VWV's program is designed to help youth to strengthen their sense of self, celebrating their own culture while learning the new. As their identity is reinforced, they examine their values and think about their goals. This helps them to reflect on whether they are being true to their values and avoiding harmful ways. They are then ready to find their own voice, exchanging with their peers about some of their challenges at school and in the community. It is at this point that they are introduced to leadership skills that can strengthen them as individuals and as a group. After finding mutual challenges, each group determines how to change these into objectives they can address together.

The VWV trains in small groups of 8-10 youth. The curriculum is designed around experiential activities and the use of images to introduce a topic. These images help to open up individuals to share their own experience. The trainer works to encourage these participants to appreciate how much they have in common and how working together makes them all stronger.

The volunteer trainer should be in contact with the youth mentors to know of anything that might impact progress, such as family dynamics or problems in class.

By becoming aware of the social network of family and community members who care about the youth, the trainer can help them develop and reach positive academic, career, and personal goals, setting them up for a successful future.

Role of Trainer

- Understanding group dynamics
- An understanding of psychology, particularly the development of teenagers
- Ability to understand the challenge of working across cultures
 - Full understanding of culture and the "iceberg model"
- Knowledge of the "Tree of Life" model in building self-awareness

- Understanding the impact of stress on the body
 - Ability to teach stress management and wellness
- Help participants to build self-esteem and motivation
- Encourage them to set goals and work toward accomplishing them
- Ability to teach leadership skills, focusing on group leadership

Requirements

- Have experience in training and leadership development
- Be interested in working with young people from different cultures
- Be willing to adhere to all program policies and procedures
- Be willing to complete the application and screening process
- Be dependable and consistent in meeting the time commitments
- Be willing to communicate regularly with program staff, submit activity information, and take constructive feedback regarding training activities

Application and Screening Process

- Written application
- Provide three personal references
- Personal interview
- Observe VWV's training sessions and, hopefully, co-train a session.