



YWCA Toronto is an association of diverse and caring women dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through dynamic leadership, advocacy and a range of unique and essential services that promote personal growth and economic independence.

Internal and External Job Posting Shelter Support Worker – Mental Health Counsellor YWCA Arise

With a 27 bed capacity, YWCA Arise is a twenty-four hour staffed emergency shelter that provides safe refuge, crisis counselling, and specialized support to abused women and their children who are fleeing violence.

Reporting to the Manager of YWCA Arise and Choices for Living, the Shelter Support Worker – Mental Health Counsellor is a specialist in the area of mental health support. This position works within a collaborative team to provide meaningful and relevant services within a theoretical feminist framework that includes a working knowledge of the dynamics and effects of trauma and oppression. She acts as a resource to staff and clients and is responsible for providing a full range of services which includes crisis counselling and the development, implementation and evaluation of workshops.

You will have: in-depth knowledge of an academic discipline normally acquired through completion of a clinically supervised undergraduate degree (e.g. BSW); an analytical framework that identifies clients' relation to social systems and the demonstrated practical application of this framework; completion of workshops and courses pertaining to mental health and trauma; 1 to 3 years experience in counselling and mutual-aid group work focused on mental health issues and trauma with clients at risk and its effects on women and children; working knowledge of harm reduction principles and practice; knowledge of community resources and supports focused on mental health; in-depth knowledge of the dynamics of woman abuse and trauma; demonstrated experience in the development, delivery and evaluation of workshops and groups; experience delivering culturally sensitive services in a multicultural environment; excellent communication and interpersonal skills; proficiency in Microsoft Word, e-mail and the Internet; knowledge and understanding of mental health issues, advocacy, refugee and immigration issues, child development and parenting; a certificate in trauma counselling would be an asset; knowledge of a second language and/or culture would be an asset. **Core Competencies:** engage in a self reflective and collaborative practice that is non-judgmental and compassionate and reflects the mission of YWCA Toronto; incorporate principles of anti-oppression and equity in responding to the service needs of women and children and work toward removing systemic barriers to independence and wellbeing; demonstrate respect, consideration and acceptance of the opinions of others while expressing her own expertise and effectively utilizing relevant resources and specialists; consistently collaborate with team members, sharing ideas and differences openly; be receptive to new ideas and adapt to change as necessary; value the contribution of others and take action to strengthen partnerships and support others to achieve effective outcomes; take action to avoid or solve problems and create opportunities for positive change; demonstrate commitment to ongoing personal and professional development.

The hours of work for this position are 35 hours per week- rotating shifts (day, afternoon, evening and weekend shifts); shares on-call duties. The salary for this position is \$45,201 per annum (Level 6), plus comprehensive benefits.

Please note: A police reference check is required by the successful candidate prior to hiring. YWCA is a unionized workplace. Staff are represented by CUPE Local 2189. This position is within the Bargaining Unit. For internal applicants, this position is secondable.

Submit cover letter and résumé to: Silvia Samsa, Manager of YWCA Arise and Choices for Living. YWCA Toronto. P.O. Box 68 Station P, Toronto, ON, M5S 2S6. FAX: (416) 929-2297

Internal Deadline: Friday, May 9, 2008

External Deadline: Monday, May 12, 2008

YWCA Toronto promotes the principles of anti-oppression and adheres to the tenets of the Ontario Human Rights Code. We encourage applications from women of all races, colours, ethnic origins, religions, abilities and sexual orientations.

While we thank all candidates for their interest, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. No telephone enquiries please.

YWCA Toronto is a perfume-free environment.

Posting Date: April 30, 2008