



Volunteer Position Description

Bereavement Care Peer Support Facilitator

Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities (SCHC) is dedicated to meeting the diverse, holistic health needs of the communities of Scarborough by addressing the physical, mental, social, financial and environmental aspects of their health. Through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the delivery of a comprehensive range of culturally competent health and social services, we cultivate vital and connected communities.

The Community Hospice Program at SCHC professionally trains compassionate, kind and committed volunteers to provide peer bereavement support – in both individual support sessions and co-facilitating mutual support groups - to people who are grieving the death of someone close to them.

We are especially in need of people who have experienced the death of a spouse or partner, bereaved parents who have experienced the death of a child of any age, and young adults/adults who have lost a parent/sibling to train as peer volunteers. Training is offered twice a year: Feb-April and Oct-Nov.

Essential Requirements:

- Personal experience of bereavement (having experienced the death of someone close to you) and some understanding of the grief experience
- Compassionate, empathetic and open
- Ability to listen without judgment and support someone without trying to fix or give advice
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Mature, reliable, responsible
- Committed to ensuring services are confidential, inclusive and accessible
- Ability to function in a client-based environment
- Completion of 30-hour comprehensive training program (combination of online and in person sessions, certificate provided)
- Able to provide a clear Vulnerable Sector Police Reference Check

Responsibilities:

- Plan and co-facilitate peer-led, mutual support bereavement groups (small groups of 8-10 people who meet once a week for two hours for up to ten weeks).
- Provide initial support & information to bereaved individuals through one on one meetings, phone and/or email.
- Respond to requests for support in a timely manner, ensure that you are in regular communication with staff and fellow volunteers, and make sure that necessary documentation is submitted for the program on a regular basis
- Participate in all required training and ongoing professional development
- Maintain safe boundaries and self-care practices
- Submit monthly volunteer hour report
- Report any concerns immediately to appropriate staff in the Community Hospice Program

Commitment: About 3-5 hours per week for one full year.

If you are interested and qualify for this position, please contact Betty Ann Rutledge, Volunteers, Outreach and Training Specialist in the Hospice Program at 416-642-9445 ext. 4418 or to set up an interview, email brutledge@schcontario.ca.

For more information about our programs and services, please visit our website at www.schcontario.ca.

All volunteers must complete a mandatory online training module provided by the Volunteer Engagement Coordinator and will follow safe work practices and comply with the roles and responsibilities that are outlined with respect to health and safety policies & procedures at Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities.