



NIGHTSTOP

Preventing homelessness through community hosting

VOLUNTEER HOST ROLE DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

360°kids supports at-risk youth across York Region through a variety of innovative programs and services. The name 360°kids references the comprehensive approach that the organization takes to assisting at-risk youth, recognizing that these kids need a wide range of supports to help them rebuild their lives. Ranging from afterschool programs and drop-in centres to employment, housing, counselling and academic programs the organization is a one-stop-shop for youth support. The organization strives to surround kids in crisis with care by creating communities where **every kid matters**, and feels safe, supported and loved.

Service description

Nightstop prevents homelessness through community hosting. It helps people who are in immediate housing crisis by providing safe accommodation in the homes of vetted volunteers called 'Hosts'.

The accommodation is provided one night initially, except on weekends, but it reviewed on a night by night basis. Whilst the guest is staying with the Host longer term appropriate accommodation is sought.

Main Tasks

- To provide clean, safe, basic overnight accommodation to the guest.
- To provide breakfast, a packaged lunch and an evening meal for the guest using the accommodation.
- To liaise with the Nightstop Program Coordinator regarding their availability and to provide regular feedback after every placement.
- To attend initial training program prior to undertaking role and attend periodic training during the course of the role.
- To attend training and support sessions where appropriate.
- To adhere to the terms of 360°kids policies and its Code of Conduct.
- To contribute positively to the continuous development of the project/team.
- To observe clear professional boundaries in our relations with the young people we work with.

Necessary skills, attitudes and knowledge:

- A basic understanding of the issues youth face.
- An ability to relate to youth on a one to one, non judgmental basis.
- A desire to work with disadvantaged youth.
- A spare room available for use by a person referred by Nightstop at short notice.
- A willingness to participate in training and be involved in consultation regarding the role.

Support and supervision:

- There will be periodic volunteer support groups for Nightstop Hosts that provide peer support and informal training opportunities.
- All Hosts will be provided with telephone support and debriefing after every placement.
- There will be regular home visits from the Program Coordinator.
- A 24hr on call system is in operation to allow access to advice and guidance for Hosts.

Preparation and training:

The Host will receive an induction training session and have ongoing training. The volunteer will also have access to all 360°kids training courses if appropriate.

Benefits to the Volunteer:

- The Volunteer Host will receive \$15CND per night when a guest stays with them
- While volunteering with Nightstop, voluntary workers have full liability insurance coverage.
- There are appreciation events to recognise the important contribution that voluntary workers make.
- Personal & professional development through training, support and ongoing evaluation.
- Contribute to a service that really does make a difference to the lives of young people.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

360°kids believes that no person should be treated less favorably than any other person because of their race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, disability, sex, age, marital status or sexual orientation.

We are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all staff, volunteers and people with whom we work. We believe that selection of volunteers should be based solely on the ability to meet the requirements of the role. We aim to remove discrimination, to provide equal access to opportunities and training, and to ensure that all those who work alongside us enjoy the full benefits of being a Nightstop volunteer.

All applicants will be subject to a Police Vulnerable Sector Check, an informal interview, a home visit and reference checks prior to being offered the role of Nightstop Host.