Open Position: Fairweather Lodge AmeriCorps VISTA

Shelter House, an Iowa City agency providing shelter and support services to people experiencing homelessness, seeks a Lodge AmeriCorps VISTA for the coming year. The Lodge AmeriCorps VISTA would begin service in July 2014.

What is VISTA?
AmeriCorps VISTA, Volunteers in Service To America, is a national service program dedicated to eliminating poverty by helping individuals and low-income neighborhoods make positive changes for themselves. To be eligible for a VISTA position you must be at least 18 years old, be able to commit and serve full time (standard of 40 hours per week) for one year, and meet the assignment specific qualifications. This VISTA position is located at the Shelter House Fairweather Lodge program in Iowa City. VISTAs are not employees of Shelter House, but are conducting a year of service to the community through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

VISTA Service Benefits (2014)
VISTA offers an opportunity for members to be involved in their community and help others, while earning a monthly living allowance and an educational benefit. There is no salary attached to this position, only a living stipend. VISTAs are not eligible to earn any additional income during their year of service.

- Annual Living Allowance: $11,136
- End of Service Educational Award: $5,645 OR end of service cash stipend of $1,500
- Health Benefits
- Experience that will prepare you for a future in non-profit or social service positions

Other benefits you may qualify for:
- Relocation Stipend for individuals relocating over 50 miles
- Child Care Assistance

Shelter House Fairweather Lodge AmeriCorps VISTA position Description
The Lodge AmeriCorps VISTA will work with a team of Shelter House Lodge staff and several specialized volunteers to expand and market the Fairweather Lodge program. The Lodge program is a permanent supported housing and employment program for adults with a chronic mental illness who are experiencing homelessness. The VISTA in this role will:

- Help implement a new grant to secure, equip, and open an additional Lodge home.
- Work with outside contractors, city officials, donors, and community members to establish the new home within all applicable grant and city regulations.
- Market the program by developing materials for the website, mailings, and a short informational video.
- Educate the Lodge neighborhoods about the program, which would include hosting Lodge open houses and attending community meetings.
- Work with other Shelter House staff to fundraise or secure additional resources for the program.
Shelter House VISTA Qualifications:
- Able to prioritize multiple tasks, work independently and work as part of a team, work under pressure, and cope with stressful situations.
- Able to develop positive relationships with clients, community agencies, and individual volunteers.
- Experience with MS Word and Excel.
- Personal attributes such as integrity, work ethic, commitment to service, friendliness, enthusiasm, and creativity.
- Reliability.
- Valid driver’s license.
- Ability to commit to one year of service with the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

How to Apply:
Submit a resume, cover letter, and three references to Phoebe Trepp at phoebetrepp@shelterhouseiowa.org or in person at 429 Southgate Ave., Iowa City IA 52240. Applicants will be reviewed immediately after an application has been received. All applications need to be received by May 30th to be considered. Top candidates will need to complete follow-up application steps through the AmeriCorps VISTA website: http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps

Contact Phoebe Trepp at Shelter House for more information about the AmeriCorps VISTA position or for assistance in completing the application process.

Phoebe Trepp
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