

Ryther

Center for Children & Youth

Canine Volunteer

Volunteer reports to: Case Manager & Volunteer Manager

Summary: If you are interested in establishing a healthy and positive relationship with a child learning to cope with a history of trauma, consider becoming a Canine Volunteer. You and your certified therapy dog can provide support and companionship to a child in Ryther's residential cottage program who would greatly benefit from this opportunity. Canine Volunteers must commit to one-hour weekly or biweekly scheduled visits with the child they are matched with for a minimum of six months.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Forming a positive relationship with assigned child by actively listening and engaging with child
- Lead and direct child in activities with therapy dog. Activities can include learning how to interact with dogs, how to hold a leash and walk the dog, playing fetch, brushing the dog, allowing the child to read to the dog, etc.

Requirements

- Patience, flexibility, and understanding that circumstances within cottage or with child may change unexpectedly
- Comfortable interacting with children
- Must be 21 years of age or older and pass criminal history background check
- Must have a certified therapy dog with up-to-date vaccinations
- 1 hour CPS Mandatory Reporter training
- TB test
- Fingerprinting if WA State resident for less than 3 years
- This position requires line of sight staff supervision in lieu of completing state mandated training for volunteers

Time Commitment

- One-hour weekly or biweekly visits with one child for a minimum of six months

How to Apply

To apply, download and complete the Volunteer Application in [PDF](#) or [Word](#) and email your resume with cover letter to volunteer@ryther.org.