



Canine Volunteer - Staff Supervised

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 and complete 16 hours of pre-service training before unsupervised visits with a child take place, PLUS six hours of health-related training: CPR, first aid, HIV/AIDS training. The pre-service training materials will be provided by the Volunteer Manager. Ryther provides the health-related trainings monthly at no cost to the volunteer. In addition to the listed requirements, volunteers will need to complete an additional 24 hours of training within one calendar year and 24 hours of training each subsequent year.

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
- Training requirements outlined in position summary

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.