

title**Program Assistant****organization****Bailey-Boushay House****context**

Volunteer and Make a Difference! Be part of a collaborative team of volunteers and staff who increase the quality of life for residents and clients at Bailey-Boushay House. Be part of our mission to provide exceptional care to people with HIV disease, promoting their health, well-being and functional independence. Our goal is that every person with HIV/AIDS in our community will have equal access to positive outcomes.

While newer medications have made surviving HIV/AIDS possible, there are still hundreds of people living in Seattle who have lived through and struggle with HIV/AIDS, mental health issues, substance use and homelessness. Marginalized populations are known to have less positive support, experience greater stigma and have a reduced quality of life. Since 1992, Bailey-Boushay House has been at the forefront of changing that!

Bailey-Boushay House offers a Residential Care Program for 35 residents. Nearly 50% are living with long-term HIV/AIDS complications; our other residents are living daily with the debilitating effects of Huntington's Disease, MS or ALS and end stage cancers. Our residents range in age from 45-75.

Our Outpatient Program supports over 300 individuals who are receiving medication management and nursing support as they increase their quality of life. Social work support assists with their life outside of the hours they are at Bailey-Boushay House. Many of these clients are living in transitional housing or are homeless, living with HIV/AIDS and other health complications, mental health issues and substance use. On average, 60 clients come and spend the day--some come every day, others come a few times a week. Our outpatient hours are 6:30am to 4pm each day of the week. We are open every day; holidays are extra special here!

Short-term commitments (less than one year) are not beneficial to our residents or clients. Building trust and creating relationships takes consistency and time. Our residents and clients have issues with abandonment, rejection and being left behind. Please be thoughtful when applying.

work description

As a volunteer, you will build relationships with clients and residents from all walks of life, all abilities and a variety of medical diagnoses. Practically, you will offer companionship, assist with meals, provide escorts for client/residents as well as support social activities and special outings that help Bailey-Boushay House staff increase the quality of life of its residents and clients. You will also provide engagement and be a positive presence to our residents and clients who are living with challenges.

You will learn how to engage with a variety of populations--those with addiction issues, mental health issues and physical issues. Learning how to adapt to situations, such as sitting with someone simply so they are not alone, and having conversations at meals with residents who have dementia and cognitive impairment due to illness or disease are practical skills practiced here each day.

You will typically spend part of your four-hour shift with our outpatient program and part with our inpatient program. Supporting staff during weekly events and activities such as arts and crafts, garden group, fun with food, nutrition group and a variety of games is vital to keeping residents engaged and participating. "Simple everyday activities" such as watching a favorite movie, going for a walk in the neighborhood or just talking with the residents and clients and

being a positive presence in their lives is one of the best times for you to learn about disease progression, engagement and being a positive force in someone's life.

Outings such as going to the movies, art museums, and "day hikes" to a variety of parks allow our residents and clients to get out of themselves and out of the building and experience life. These events take many volunteers as well as trained staff. Being part of these events will not only be fun but will also be life-changing for those with disabilities and those living on the fringe in our city.

During community meals, you help out by providing companionship to the residents, passing out meal trays and assisting residents and clients with meal service. You will learn effective communication skills and what life is like living with HIV/AIDS or another life-threatening illness, all while working with a great healthcare team. The environment is welcoming and warm, and never close-minded.

You will work directly with our Recreational Therapy team as well as Care Managers (social workers), nursing staff, PCT's (nurse aides) and other staff members, so you will always have a trained staff person to go to for support and guidance. Staff members and volunteers work as a team--this truly is hands-on learning!

Each shift includes 2-5 volunteers dependent upon the day of the week and time. You will build relationship with other volunteers as well as the clients and residents.

impact

This service learning position adds to the quality of life of the residents and clients at Bailey-Boushay House by forming personal yet professional relationships between volunteers and clients/residents--an opportunity to learn from one another. You will interact with members of the HIV/AIDS community as well as those with other serious illnesses. Clients and residents gain social connections and are able to teach volunteers what it's like living with their disease.

Working directly with a variety of staff members, you can begin to understand the importance of working as a team and collaborating for the best possible outcomes. Volunteers at Bailey-Boushay play a vital role in the day-to-day running of the facility, from answering the phone, supporting meal service and being an engaging presence for our clients and residents which allows staff to be more effective in their roles.

You are an integral part of the daily functions of Bailey-Boushay House, from your presence to our clients early in the morning when the shelters close for the day, to being an escort to a medical appointment for a resident who is wheelchair-bound and is unable to communicate. In this case, you truly become their voice, allowing staff to go on with their work knowing that the resident will be safe. You might be trained at our front desk to allow our admin staff to prepare reports and take care of central supply needs. You will help our kitchen staff by creating the foundation of a meal tray and preparing the non-perishable portion of our daily "sack dinners" that each client receives before they leave for the day. You truly will be the heart of our little world!

"I wouldn't be alive without Bailey and its programs. You feel intensely about a place that saves your life." ~Outpatient Program Client

driving notes

Call for directions.

bus notes

Bus Routes #11 and #8

location notes

Bailey Boushay House - 2720 East Madison (intersection of East Madison and MLK, Jr. Way), Seattle, WA 98112 - is located in the Madison Valley neighborhood (approximately a 10 minute drive from the UW). It is located on Metro bus lines #11 and #8. Call for more detailed directions 206-322-5300.

ideal number

8 students

requirements

Must be 18 years old

Must commit for One Calendar Year

TB test required

Other paperwork: food worker card- completed at no cost; confidentiality form, online orientation and health safety modules.

Background check required

skills needed

Good listening skills; reliability; patience; ability to work in a diverse environment that includes individuals dealing with issues of homelessness, mental health problems and/or chemical dependency; capable of working independently or as a part of a team; ability to commit for an extended period of time.

We ask that volunteers commit for one full calendar year OR 100 hours of service.