

Growing Up Healthy Neighborhood Organizer Job Description

Last Updated 8/26/2015

Now completing its 8th year, Growing Up Healthy (GUH) is a community-based coalition whose mission is to work with partner organizations and immigrant and refugee families to transform communities through cultivating neighborhood leadership, fostering social connectedness, and collectively advocating for change within neighborhoods and systems.

GUH trains and supports groups of residents in five neighborhoods throughout Rice County (Northfield -- Viking Terrace and Jefferson Square; Faribault -- Cannon River/Hulett, Evergreen Estates, and Four Seasons). As part of a Neighborhood Team, these residents serve as advisors and community leaders and are responsible for making important connections both within and beyond their neighborhoods. Each Neighborhood Team also meets regularly with members of the GUH Advisory Board, made up of the leaders of organizations and agencies that impact the lives of the neighborhood residents. This provides a chance for the residents to speak directly with decision-makers about issues and barriers they are experiencing, and for the two groups to think together about potential solutions. Recent projects include: working with partners to address barriers to accessing Adult ESL (English as a Second Language) programming; facilitating bilingual community organizing and leadership development trainings; supporting weekly summertime neighborhood gatherings with activities for kids and adults; and participating in a statewide campaign to advocate for legislation that would allow undocumented immigrants to apply for a Minnesota driver's license.

GUH seeks two part-time Neighborhood Organizers (10 hours/week at \$15/hour) to help provide strategic direction and support to the GUH Neighborhood Teams.

Tasks for the GUH Neighborhood Organizers include:

- Build effective relationships with individuals and organizations central to the work of GUH
- Provide support to GUH Neighborhood Teams, including member recruitment, communication, project development, and action plan development
- Ensure effective communication of ideas and issues between Neighborhood Teams, the GUH Coordinator, and the Advisory Board
- Work with the Coordinator to identify and promote collaborative projects between the Neighborhood Teams and the Advisory Board
- Work with Neighborhood Teams and the Coordinator to empower projects to completion
- Assist with required project evaluation and data tracking
- Other duties as needed/requested in support of neighborhood initiatives

Required qualities for the GUH Neighborhood Organizers include:

- Bilingual in English and Spanish/Somali
- Excellent oral communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously
- Creative and collaborative when solving problems
- Positive attitude and ability to take initiative
- Demonstrated leadership experience
- Passion for equity and social justice
- Ability to work with and relate well to women of diverse economic and cultural backgrounds
- Ability to work evening and weekend hours
- Ability to travel within Rice County

Preferred qualities for the GUH Neighborhood Organizers include:

- Experience in community organizing and coalition building
- Connection to and/or understanding of GUH neighborhoods
- Familiarity with Rice County organizations and resources

Reports to: GUH Coordinator, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the GUH Advisory Board.

To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references (not family members) to: Leah Eby, GUH Coordinator (Leah@growinguphealthy.org).

Application review will begin immediately and will continue until the positions are filled. GUH hopes to fill the positions and begin work by late September 2015.