

CONNECTION ENHANCEMENT SOCIAL WORKER

THE SCONA SENIORS CENTER IS SEEKING A REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKER WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IT WILL BE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS TO BUILD A LASTING, EFFECTIVE SOCIAL NETWORK. THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF AGE APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE SENIORS WE SERVE, AND THE STAFF HAVE WORKED DILLIGENTLY TO CREATE A WARM, WELCOMING, HOME-AWAY-FROM-HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL WHO ENTER OUR DOOR.

QUALIFICATIONS

Diploma or degree of Social Work; proof of registration with the ACSW is required or must be obtained within the three month probationary period; understanding of the changing needs of seniors as they age and the implications of isolation and living in poverty; experience in program/activity planning and delivery; excellent interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills; **gregarious**, compassionate, patient, approachable, assertive; creative thinker, flexible, strong team player, clear personal and professional boundaries; ability to work independently in a fast paced environment; ability to lift and carry 25 pounds. Valid driver's license, proof of liability insurance in the amount of \$2,000,000, clear driver's abstract, and a criminal record check are required.

HOURS OF WORK: 9 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Monday – Thursday

Twice monthly early evening flex hours, occasional week-ends to accommodate events or activities

ACCOUNTABILITY: reports directly to the Executive Director

PURPOSE: SCONA offers services and activities to primarily older and/or frail seniors that will break social isolation, encourage their independence, and enhance their physical, social, and emotional wellbeing. To that end, the Connection Enhancement Social Worker will create a harmonious, and supportive environment. The planning and delivery of age appropriate activities will provide opportunities for seniors to build lasting, intimate relationships with each other, and participate more fully in the life of their community. The primary goal of the Connection Enhancement Worker is to break the social isolation experienced by many seniors, and ensure the maintenance of connection to their peers and their community of neighbours, friends, and resource providers.

DUTIES:

- Develop genuine, trusting, harmonious, and supportive relationships with the participants of SCONA that promote dignity, inclusion, and personal interests through the use of best practice Social Work methods
- Provide immediate mediation, problem solving, and short-term supportive counselling to participants as required. If it becomes apparent that longer-term or crisis intervention is required, refer to the Outreach Social Worker
- Provide purposeful activities and support in an engaging, fun, and safe environment at a variety of venues. Set-up/take/down of necessary equipment.

- Plan and deliver age appropriate activities on a daily basis that will promote independence, and decrease social isolation. Emphasis will be on the development of personal relationships between peers, improved health and wellness, mental acuity, mobility, and emotional stability, and connection to the larger community.
- Coordinate activities that may involve outside service providers such as the Podiatrist, Massage Therapist, Community Nurse, etc.
- Plan and deliver one low cost field trip per month during winter months, and several times per month during spring, summer, and fall at venues and events in and around Edmonton to afford seniors experiences that they would otherwise be unable to attend, and to promote a sense of connection to the larger community
- Coordinate field trips and event planning with other seniors Centers with whom SCONA has a working and supportive relationship. Consult and collaborate with the Executive Director in planning and coordination of these activities
- Collaborate with Community Leagues in areas where SCONA seniors reside to offer opportunities for seniors to be involved in the life of their community
- Coordinate guest speakers and in-services or workshops on topics of concern to seniors such as safety at home and in the community, health and wellness, available home supports that promote continued independence, and social or political trends etc.
- Create and distribute a monthly newsletter and calendar of events to service users and community partners through email and postal services
- Initiate regular evaluation of activity effectiveness through the administration of a twice yearly satisfaction survey
- Meet twice yearly with service users for the purpose of ensuring input from “the experts”, to inform the planning of services and activities.
- Provide coordination, leadership, and supervision to volunteers who assist with the delivery of activities
- Provide support to Volunteer Peer Support Team Lead. Work cooperatively with the Outreach Social Worker and peer support team to ensure connection for seniors in need
- Develop strong working relationships with other SCONA employees, providing assistance to their roles, or seeking their assistance as necessary
- Develop community partnerships that will enhance service provision to seniors, especially the elderly, frail.
- Provide assistance to the Outreach Worker as requested

COMPENSATION:

- This is a one year term position that will be extended dependent upon funding
- All employees must successfully complete a three month probationary period
- Starting wage upon hire is \$20.00 per hour for a 30 hour work week, Monday through Thursday, twice monthly early evening flex time, and rare week-ends to accommodate special events or activities. An increase in wages will be instated upon successful completion of the three month probationary period.
- Overtime is paid through time off in lieu

- Competitive health benefits are available after the completion of the three month probationary period with the cost being shared equally between the employee and SCONA
- Paid vacation benefit of two weeks during first year of employment, and subsequent years in accordance with SCONA Policy
- Sick time is cumulative at the equivalent of 1 ¼ days per month and is not carried forward from year to year
- Every employee may take 5 paid mental health days per year requiring no explanation for time taken but arranged with the Executive Director
- Travel expenses are reimbursed at \$.42 per kilometer

PLEASE SUBMIT COVER LETTER AND RESUME VIA EMAIL ONLY TO scona84th@shaw.ca. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

ONLY APPLICANTS DEEMED APPROPRIATE FOR THE CURRENT NEEDS OF SCONA WILL BE CONTACTED FOR FURTHER EVALUATION

COMPETITION WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL A SUITABLE CANDIDATE IS FOUND