

Project Title: Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos #112

Website Address: www.casahope.org <<http://www.casahope.org>>

Job Title: Childcare volunteer

Job description:

Volunteers care for children from birth to six years of age who are considered to be at high risk for abuse, neglect, or HIV/AIDS. Volunteers, in many ways, will be substitute parents for the children in their care. Responsibilities will include feeding babies, changing diapers, planning and cooking meals, bathing the children, getting them dressed in the morning, transporting to school, grocery shopping and general upkeep of the house and yard.

Volunteers will also coordinate the medical and developmental needs of the children by accompanying children to doctor's appointments, as well as speech, physical and/or psychological therapy.

Everyone is expected to pitch in as necessary when emergencies arise or when there is an added workload because of special events or holidays. Volunteers also tend support to the Family Based Care program and to Post-Adopt Parent's Night Out.

Minimum requirements:

Volunteers must be 18 years of age (21 or older is preferred), and have a high school diploma or GED. Volunteers must also be able to lift and carry small children, be willing to live simply, willing to work hard and willing to create a supportive environment with fellow staff members. Other desirable characteristics include: flexibility, patience and exceptional interpersonal skills.

Project description:

Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos-the House of Hope for Children-is a safe place for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect or HIV/AIDS. Casa provides residential, medical and psychological care to meet the needs of each child in placement. Children are cared for in homes with six or fewer children per house. One or two people will be chosen to live in the house with the children as House Parents. Five other staff members will live in adjacent staff housing and will work scheduled shifts in the house, and assist with transportation and other household needs when off shift. Casa has been in operation for almost 20 years now. During that time we have grown from one house to ten and have provided daily residential care to over 1700 children. Our houses are all located quite close to each other, which makes it easy for volunteers to visit with each other and build friendships over the course of the year. Three of our houses are surrounded by 4 acres of fenced-in land. This area is available for use by all of the houses and includes a playground, picnic tables and vegetable and flower gardens. Our remaining houses are also within 8 blocks of one of Houston's most beautiful parks. Located in and around the park are: the Miller outdoor Theater, the Fine Arts Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Natural History (which includes a planetarium, IMAX theater, and the Cockerel Butterfly Center). There is also an excellent running or walking trail around the park's golf course and a lovely rose garden with a pagoda when you're in the mood to relax or write letters. We are also within 7 minutes of downtown where you can attend the theater, ballet, opera or symphony.

Housing for volunteer:

On project site.

Volunteers may live in a house with children or in separate staff housing. Volunteer may have a roommate and will share common areas.

Additional factors:

Are willing to take couples. Would need to speak with the couple prior to assignment.