



CASEY HOUSE

Volunteering at Casey House: FAQs

Everything you wanted to know about volunteering at Casey House (but were too busy to ask...)

What do Volunteers do at Casey House?

Casey House is supported by approximately 300 volunteers each year. Volunteers are involved in all areas of the agency, including resident support, appointment accompaniment, recreation, reception, fundraising events and office support.

How do I start?

Volunteer Information Sessions are held monthly in the autumn and spring. Volunteers are encouraged to attend a session before making a decision.

Potential volunteers must then complete an application and have an interview with the Volunteer Coordinator. You must be able to meet the time commitment requirements, possess the skills necessary and agree with Casey House's mission, philosophy and policies. You must also supply references.

Casey House is committed to ensuring that the rich diversity of the City of Toronto is represented in its volunteer program.

Is there a lot of paperwork involved?

All new volunteers of Casey House must sign and agree to an Oath of Confidentiality, which protects the privacy of its clients, staff and volunteers. Also, all volunteers who work directly with clients must complete a Police Reference check. (Read about these at <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/prcp/>)

What is the atmosphere at Casey House like?

Casey House is proud to encourage people living with HIV and AIDS to volunteer with us. We work with our clients without judgment regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, cultural background, orientation, health status, religion or abilities. To volunteer at Casey House individuals must agree with and practice "acceptance without judgment and caring without question."

What about my personal health? Does that matter?

At Casey House we respect that volunteers may themselves have health challenges. As a Health Care provider, there are certain screening requirements that all program volunteers must complete in order to keep our residents, staff, visitors and other volunteers safe. All volunteers who work with clients must take a TB screening test, and may be asked to take Hepatitis or MRSA screens if required. More information about screening will be provided during the volunteer information sessions.

Are there benefits to volunteering?

Yes! Benefits include:

- Personal satisfaction, development & acquisition of professional skills
- The opportunity to learn team-building skills
- Some transportation subsidies available
- Peer support & skills training
- Opportunities to attend events

What qualities do I need?

To be a successful volunteer at Casey House, you should possess:

- A commitment to Casey House mission and values
- The ability to listen and communicate well
- An openness to learning
- Calmness, reliability, flexibility, drive
- A respect for confidentiality & the rights of residents
- Respect for and appreciation of diversity
- A lesbian/gay positive outlook
- The ability to maintain strong professional boundaries

What kind of training will I receive?

Volunteer Training Sessions include:

- AIDS 101
- Psychosocial Issues relating to HIV/AIDS
- Boundaries and Professional Behavior
- Infection Control
- Practical Skills
- Shadow shifts with volunteer 'buddy'
- Mandatory ongoing workshops including, HIV and Disclosure, CNIB, Cultural Competency and others.

What if I have to volunteer to get credit for school or social assistance?

Individuals wishing to volunteer in order to meet requirements for Community Service Credits (whether for school, Social Assistance or by court order) are welcome to apply to our volunteer program. However, all requirements for volunteering continue to apply, including availability, skills and minimum time commitment.

Still have questions? Please don't hesitate to contact us at 416-962-7600 x202 or volunteering@caseyhouse.on.ca