

COMPEER VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

Qualifications: Kindness, gentleness, patience. Personal experience with mental illness is helpful

Time requirement: Minimum of four hours a month contact with friend of same gender, in person or by phone, at times that are convenient for both; participating in mutually enjoyable activities such as going out for coffee and/or walks, attending sporting events, movies and concerts; knitting, quilting, crafting, shopping, playing cards, etc

One year commitment and criminal background check required.

Responsible to: 1. Compeer staff
2. Referring therapist
3. Compeer friend

Orientation: Interview by Compeer staff and referring therapist

Training: Five hours training provided, 3 hours prior to match, 2 hours after match

Duties: A Compeer volunteer is matched in a one-to-one or group friendship relationship with a person/s diagnosed with mental illness. After being carefully screened by the Compeer staff and referring mental health professional, the volunteer is matched with an appropriate individual of his/her choice. The volunteer assists with and enhances the successful rehabilitation and re-entry of their Compeer friend into the community by providing individual support. Compeer's goal is to compliment professional care by providing a meaningful friendship and role model for those outside the traditional mental health setting. Persons may attain a higher level of functioning by improving their communications and social skills, a sense of security and belonging, self-esteem, and interpersonal trust. The volunteer may also advocate for his/her Compeer friend in attaining more appropriate levels of housing and investigating community resources, education, and work opportunities.

The above job description is general. The volunteer's duties are highly individual depending on the needs of the friend and the level of care.

Additional requirements: Volunteer must submit monthly reports to support ongoing communication and ongoing program funding requirements.

Contact Person: Compeer Program manager Micky Brown at 406.457.7319 or e-mail micky@rmdc.net