

Maple Hill Community

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Job Description for Co-workers and Volunteers

Maple Hill Community is a not-for-profit organization that is an extended family made up of a housemother Anitra Sorensen, her boy Tyler aged 16, one or two volunteer co-workers, and two people with special needs. These people share all aspects of daily life including work, educational and artistic activities, meals, house and grounds maintenance, gardening and animal care, and recreation. Each member of the community contributes what he or she can do and can be, and all are appreciated and respected for their individuality. In this and other respects, Maple Hill is inspired by the work of Rudolf Steiner, the Austrian philosopher and educator, who provided the impulse for the Waldorf Schools as well as for a worldwide network of social and therapeutic communities.

An important part of the community is a barn which houses horses used for a therapeutic horseback riding program; goats that provide milk, cheese, and yogurt; sheep that provide wool for weaving and other projects; and chickens that provide eggs. There is a small bio-dynamic vegetable garden; maple trees used for making maple syrup in the spring; and 22 acres of land that provide grazing for the animals and forest land used for recreation and firewood that helps keep everyone warm in winter.

Skills Required for the Work

Openness, willingness to learn and help where needed, willingness to put aside your needs for the needs of others

Description of the Work

There are two kinds of work:

- 1) Helping with the needs of others
- 2) Helping around the house and family farm

Helping with the needs of others might mean:

- reading a book out loud
- helping with teeth brushing or bathing
- going to a concert or art gallery together
- helping someone learn a new skill
- helping someone with homework

- going skiing with someone
- assisting with artistic activities (weaving, watercolor painting, form drawing, etc.)
- just sitting and talking and being a friend.

Helping around the house and family farm might include:

- cooking
- washing the dishes
- helping cut and stack firewood
- feeding the animals
- milking the goats
- collecting eggs
- cleaning the house
- cleaning the stalls and barn
- working in the garden
- doing the laundry
- helping with a building project
- helping with the horseback riding program
- helping collect and boil down maple syrup
- clearing a walking trail in the woods

Our goal is to find what each person enjoys and contribute joyfully to keep the household and activities flowing in a harmonious way that all can enjoy.

Other Requirements

1. Accommodation is in the house with a private bedroom and shared bath.
2. We have mostly vegetarian meals. Sharing meals together is an important aspect of the community, and is required except on days off.
3. Co-workers and volunteers must be non-smokers.
4. There is no use or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs while at Maple Hill Community.
5. We feel that TV watching is detrimental to building true community and only watch on rare occasions. Fridays is a movie night.
6. All music and radio listening shall be done in such a way as to not disturb other members of the household.
7. Volunteers are not permitted to use the cars owned by Maple Hill Community and houseparents except in special circumstances. Unfortunately there is no public transportation available in this rural area. Volunteers may own, insure and maintain a car for their own use, but may not transport residents in their private car.

Volunteers are responsible for the following items before joining the household:

1. Report of Doctor's examination (form provided)
2. Mantoux test for tuberculosis
3. Proof of health insurance

4. Police background check and driving record
5. Obtaining their own volunteer visa if from a foreign country

I agree to the above job description for volunteer work beginning _____
(date)

(signature)