

Roots of Empathy – Toronto Coordinator

Who are we?

Roots of Empathy is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning, not-for-profit organization which operates globally. Its mission is to build caring, peaceful, and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults. Since its creation in 1996 by Founder President Mary Gordon Roots of Empathy has reached over 800,000 children with its empathy-based programs and has been called “Canada’s olive branch to the world”.

Roots of Empathy has been the recipient of numerous global awards. Most recently, in 2017, Roots of Empathy was chosen as one of the most inspiring social innovations of the year by Finnish education organization HundrED. It was also recognized by UpSocial in Athens, Greece and Lisbon, Portugal as an innovation best placed to address the challenge of children at risk of social exclusion through their project “Accelerating Change for Social Inclusion”. Roots of Empathy was also chosen as one of the world’s top three best practice children’s organizations by the Klaus J Jacobs Foundation.

The Roots of Empathy program, which takes its name from the organization, is an evidence based classroom program shown in over 18 years of independent research to reduce aggression and to increase children’s social and emotional competence. Our programs are based on experiential learning and rooted in relationship. Through a series of classroom visits over the course of the school year by a neighborhood parent and infant, students are guided by a trained Roots of Empathy Instructor using our celebrated curriculum to read the baby’s emotional cues and take the baby’s perspective. Students reflect on the loving relationship between baby and parent – the first and most powerful model of empathy. Empathy is the ability to understand how others feel and to feel with them. It’s at the core of our humanity. Empathy encourages inclusion, social cohesion and respect and is best developed through experiential learning.

The Opportunity

Roots of Empathy is looking for a Coordinator to join our team in the support of the Roots of Empathy programs in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB). This position is responsible for program oversight of the Roots of Empathy program in both school districts. Responsibilities also include community development, working with groups/agencies, and supporting outreach and expansion opportunities, with a focus on diversity and the inclusion of all families and newcomers to Canada, including refugees.

For more information please visit: www.rootsofempathy.org

This is a full-time contract position.

Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting to the Ontario Provincial Manager, key responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining regular communication with Roots of Empathy partners (board contacts, school principals, teachers, Roots of Empathy Instructors, volunteer families) in a variety of methods including presentations, telephone calls, email, face-to-face, etc.
- Identification and outreach to immigrant/refugee communities such as Syrian, Korean, Greek, Afghani, French, Italian, Chinese and Caribbean communities.
- Establishing and maintaining partnerships with local and provincial organizations/agencies also committed to early childhood, diverse communities, and/or refugee populations
- Promotion of Roots of Empathy in TDSB and TCDSB, including hosting meetings, giving presentations, etc.
- Administration to support successful start-up, delivery, and year-end wrap-up of the Roots of Empathy programs in TDSB and TCDSB including collection of photos, artwork, stories and feedback with applicable release forms
- Close monitoring of Roots of Empathy program implementation to ensure program fidelity; collaborating with the Senior Mentor of Ontario on maintenance of program integrity
- Identification and placement of Roots of Empathy Instructors for TDSB and TCDSB programs
- Managing the application process for new Instructors
- Planning and coordination of Roots of Empathy trainings and professional development opportunities for TDSB and TCDSB Roots of Empathy Instructors
- Contribution to written reports on Roots of Empathy in Ontario, specifically TDSB.

Qualifications:

- Post-secondary education in a related field
- A minimum of two years of successful experience in community development, preferably in Ontario
- Experience working within schools or school districts
- Experience with the Roots of Empathy program is an asset
- Strong written and verbal communication and presentation skills with the ability to communicate to a broad range of people
- Strong problem-solving skills and flexible thinking
- Strong organizational and multi-tasking skills, time management skills, and attention to details and deliverables
- Ability to take initiative and work within teams
- Ability to quickly and effectively develop rapport, as well as build and sustain relationships at all levels
- Ability to travel within Toronto (a valid driver's license is required)

- Experience using Excel, Word and other MS suite software
- Fluency (oral and written) in additional languages, especially French, German, Spanish, and Arabic is an advantage
- Working with Indigenous peoples (First Nation, Metis and/or Inuit) paired with an understanding of Indigenous history, culture and protocol is an asset
- Knowledge of the Roots of Empathy organizational programs, as well as experience with other not-for-profit organizations
- Must have a strong understanding and belief in the mission, goals and values of the Roots of Empathy organization

Roots of Empathy is an equal opportunity employer and is fully compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Salary: Full time contract position @ 37.5 hours per week. Salary commensurate with experience.

Application deadline: April 27, 2018

Please send resume and cover letter to: jobs@rootsofempathy.org citing Roots of Empathy Toronto Coordinator