Practicum Site Information

Harrigan Development Services offers practicum experiences to 2-3 students each semester. As an agency, we provide job placement, individual mentoring and social skills groups to individuals with disabilities. Students are given the opportunity to experience all services, but primarily participate in our individual mentoring service and social skills groups. Below are descriptions of these services. This is a non-traditional site in that all services are community-based as opposed to in-office.

Individual Mentoring

Mentors are typically graduate students with a human services focus, recent graduates in the field, or individuals with specific backgrounds or skill sets who have a desire to help children and young adults increase self-esteem and become more independent. While parents and families are critical in their children's lives, we often hear how important it is to have someone outside of the family regularly involved in the child's or young adult's life. Each mentoring client we work with has 3 specific goals they work on anywhere from 1 hour to 6 hours per week depending on desire and needs. Examples of goals include:

- Increasing social outlets
- Improving social skills
- Establishing routines
- Improving behaviors
- Improving emotional regulation & coping mechanisms
- Exploring community resources
- Learning to open up about feelings and emotions

Compass Peer Group Ages 17-30

Compass is an on-going group for high-functioning young adults with disabilities who have a desire to meet new friends, practice social skills, and discover new environments in the community that can be utilized outside group meetings. Meetings are on Wednesdays from 2:30-4PM.

Occupational Therapy Social Skills Group Ages 17-30

This group was created for high-functioning young adults with disabilities who are between the ages of 17-30 and are motivated to learn strategies to cope with life's challenges, regulate emotions, improve team-building skills, improve healthy living and enhance social skills. This group meets on Mondays at Concordia University from 5:30pm-7:30pm.
Requirements

- Students must be willing to drive clients in their own vehicle. Most mentor clients will require someone who can drive and incorporate community outings. Mentors will be reimbursed for mileage.
- Students will be required to create a Google Voice virtual phone number to use for client communication.
- Students must be able to meet their weekly hourly requirements. In some cases this means working on evenings and weekends.
- Students must commit to 2 semesters or 1 year. This includes working over holiday breaks at times to ensure there is not a long gap in services. When appropriate Harrigan Development will compensate time on an hourly basis during periods when school is not in session and practicum hours are not accrued.

If you are interested in learning more about practicum opportunities with Harrigan Development please email andy.harrigan@harrigandevelopment.com or call 262-347-3711.