



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Reading Buddies Program

Henry Street Settlement Mission & Overview:

Founded in 1893 by social work and public health pioneer Lillian Wald and based on Manhattan's Lower East Side, Henry Street Settlement delivers a wide range of social service, arts and health care programs to more than 50,000 New Yorkers each year. Distinguished by a profound connection to its neighbors, a willingness to address new problems with swift and innovative solutions, and a strong record of accomplishment, Henry Street challenges the effects of urban poverty by helping families achieve better lives for themselves and their children.

Program Overview:

Henry Street Settlement's School Based Mental Health Clinic Program (SBMHC), located in five public schools in the Lower East Side, aim to eliminate barriers that provide children and families from seeking mental health care by providing services on-site in schools and collaborating with educational professionals who spend extended time with students on a daily basis. The children in the program range from 5-14 years old. The licensed social workers in the SBMHC Program conduct psychosocial evaluations, lead individual, family, and group therapy sessions, and offer psychiatric evaluations with a child psychiatrist. The social workers hold certifications in Trauma-Focused CBT, Sand Tray Therapy, and Yoga Instruction. Services are offered to families in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

Qualifications/Requirements:

- Completion of a background check
- Age 18 and older
- Experience with children is preferred, though not required
- Basic elementary tutoring skills
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Patience and willingness to work in a diverse environment
- Passion for reading

Responsibilities:

- Participate in an orientation, including background check, before the start of the program (date TBD)
- Commit to serve as a Reading Buddy once per month on a weekday from 3-5pm (monthly date TBD)
- Facilitate reading activity with assigned Reading Buddy (aged Kindergarten – 5th Grade)
- Encourage active participation during reading activity
- Engage children in educational games during session break
- Foster a safe learning environment for children

To Apply:

Please contact Laron Tolliver at ltolliver@henrystreet.org or 212.766.9200 x230. Opportunity is available to individual volunteers or corporate groups may wish to participate as a team.