



**Position:** Peer Support Specialist

**Position Summary:** The PATH Program is a specialized outreach initiative that looks to reduce or eliminate homelessness for individuals with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders, who are experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

The PATH Program Peer Support Specialist position includes a large outreach component, canvassing the Miami-Dade County area, as well as hospitals and crisis units, locating those that are homeless with mental health issues and developing trust-built relationships with these individuals. The PATH Peer Support Specialist is one of the points of contact for clients and is responsible for assisting and empowering clients regarding concerns they may have, by accompanying them to appointments, monitoring their progress on their goals, aiding the team, and leading by example when it comes to coping strategies. Majority of the work, may require travel and being a support to clients on necessary appointments. A PATH Program Peer Support Specialist uses their own experience to guide and support clients and must be an energetic self-starter, passionate about helping homeless individuals, have excellent communication skills, be attentive to detail and relentless in driving outcomes.

The ideal candidate will be familiar and comfortable with homeless individuals and street culture and will demonstrate an ability to establish trusting, hopeful relationships with these individuals.

**Qualifications Required:**

- Ability to understand and practice the mission of Camillus House.
- **Education:** Peer Support Certification
- **Experience:** A minimum of 1 year experience in the same or similar job role is preferred.
- **Language:** Proficiency in oral and written English required; Spanish preferred additional languages a plus (i.e. Creole).
- **Skills:** Proficiency in computer (Word, Excel, other data collecting programs).
- Successful completion of Toxicology test and of a Level 2 Background Screening.
- Successful completion and eligibility results of Level 2 screening is required by funding source for this position.
- Valid FL Driver License with clean driving record

**Qualifications Preferred:**

- Culturally sensitive to the social, psychological and healthcare needs of the vulnerable populations serviced.
- Strong organizational, interpersonal and communication skills to meet deadlines and handle multiple tasks.
- Demonstrates a high level of productivity while remaining calm and effective under pressure.
- A self-starter with demonstrated ability to work independently, as well as, with multidisciplinary teams and co-workers.
- Ability to maintain a high level of poise and professionalism in all circumstances.

**Responsibilities:**

- Commitment to the Values and Mission of the Brothers of St. John of God as witnessed through Camillus House and Health in serving the needs of the underserved populations.

**Hospitality:** Create an environment where people can feel welcomed, comfortable, understood, esteemed and loved.

**Respect:** Recognize the richness of God's gifts and His presence in every person regardless of age, situation in life, culture or religion.

**Spirituality:** Nurture a brighter, happier and richer life in time of suffering and struggle; empowering confidence in living with joy.

**Quality:** Work toward creating centers of excellence; fostering continuous improvement.

**Healing:** Respond to the need of the whole person – body, mind and spirit; energizing new hope.

**Responsibility:** Encourage cooperation as a way of promoting standards of competency, efficiency and accountability as we carry out our duties in the Mission.

- Conduct daily street outreach.
- Provide respectful engagement to homeless adults with serious psychiatric disabilities and co-occurring substance use disorders.
- Work with other PATH Program partners to develop strategies that help encourage homeless individuals to take steps leading to housing.
- Assist case managers by providing client with support, guidance and encouragement on his/her path to housing.
- Document client engagement through case notes according to established policies and procedure.
- Participate in staff organizational meetings and treatment planning review meetings.
- Accompany/drive clients to appointments to apply for benefits (SSI, Veterans pensions, etc.) obtain documents (ID, birth certificate, Social Security cards), employment options, and housing opportunities.
- Assist clients with money-management skills (e.g., budgeting and bill paying).
- Assist clients with what is needed when they transition to housing.
- Other Duties as assigned.

**Essential Skills and Experience:**

- Service coordination
- Crisis assessment and intervention
- Symptom assessment and management
- Needs assessment techniques and strategies
- Problem-solving and conflict resolution

**Work Environment:**

The employee may be in contact with individuals in crisis who may be ill, using alcohol and drugs, and who may not be attentive to basic personal hygiene, health and safety practices. The employee may experience a number of unpleasant sensory demands associated with the client's use of alcohol and drugs, and lack of personal hygiene. The employee must be ready to respond quickly and effectively to many types of situations, including crisis situations and potentially hostile situations. The noise level of the work environment is usually moderate in an office setting. Sometimes work may become stressful when working under pressure.

**Physical Requirements:**

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to sit, stand, walk, stoop, reach above and below shoulders; use hand and finger dexterity, keyboarding and making and receiving telephone calls. The employee may be required on occasion to lift and/or carry up to 20lbs.

**Work Schedule:**

- Ability to work a flexible work schedule. Shifts vary (weekends and evenings as needed).
- Particular shift requirements/locations as noted below: (list, initial, date)
- Ability to assist in Camillus House's two (2) annual fundraisers (i.e. Gala and The Auction)

**Camillus House is an Equal Opportunity Employer**