INDUSTRIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR

Job Description

For over 30 years, Blindness: Learning In New Dimensions (BLIND), Inc. has provided small group instruction in the alternative techniques of blindness. Our programs are based on a positive attitude toward blindness and a belief in the normality and competency of blind people. We know that with proper training and opportunity, blind people can live full, happy, and successful lives.

The purpose of the position is to provide practical training in woodworking, home repairs, and related skills to blind adults and youth who are enrolled in our training programs. Primary purpose of the training is to build self-confidence and practical skills through tangible work in people who will go on to maintain their own homes and manage their own lives, but some students will use the training as a jumping off point for careers in skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled trades.

We are looking for someone who is passionate about teaching, excited by new challenges, and interested in working as part of a small but energetic team.

Duties and Responsibilities:

* Provide individualized training to small classes of four students or less in our woodshop. Classes will focus on confidence building through physical activity, using both hand and power tools with non-visual techniques. We will provide training to the instructor in those nonvisual techniques, which are in many ways safer and more effective than sighted techniques.
  + Examples of nonvisual techniques include use of the click rule, talking tape measure, and tactile rulers and protractors for measuring, and safety methods for operating power machines. We use tactile markings and guides when necessary, but many machines do not require any special adaptations.
  + Tools used in teaching include:
    - Hand tools, including hammers, saws, and power drills.
    - Power tools, including the table saw, band saw, drill press, planer, jointer, sliding compound miter saw, lathe, and router, plus specialized tools for mortising and other joining functions. (Ours is a fully outfitted shop with a dust collection system,)
* Utilizing our 100 year old mansion as a classroom, the instructor will teach students how to perform common household maintenance tasks such as painting and refinishing, plumbing, and minor electrical repairs. Some projects will be part of the regular curriculum, while others will depend on the building’s needs at the moment.
* Develop individualized lesson plans for students in accord with the curriculum and update the curriculum as needed.
* Write comprehensive monthly reports on each student describing progress made and goals to be completed.
* keep shop clean and well maintained; fix machines; purchase supplies and replacement equipment as needed.
* Participate and assist in all center activities including rock climbing, skiing, camping and other vital activities, including on some evenings and weekends
* Function as part of a team, maintaining close communication with director and other instructors; actively participate in staff and other meetings
* Support students in their efforts to be self-sufficient, by promoting a positive belief in the abilities of blind people, and helping students deal with the problems they encounter as part of the adjustment to blindness process.
* Contact vocational training programs and employers on an as needed basis to advocate for training and employment for students.
* Actively promote the philosophy of the National Federation of the Blind both during and outside of class.
* Other duties as assigned

Requirements:

* Knowledge and experience in the areas of woodworking and home maintenance.
* Willingness to successfully complete a period of paid staff training in order to learn nonvisual skills.
* College or vocational college training, preferably in industrial arts teaching, or comparable work experience.
* Ability to plan, organize and develop lessons.
* Effective written and verbal communication skills.
* Ability to work effectively as part of a team.
* Ability to work with a variety of people in a variety of situations.
* Ability to work with students in designing quality woodworking projects including developing plans, materials list, and project budget.
* Must possess the organizational skills required to work with multiple students on multiple projects.
* Must be committed to the independence and full community integration of blind people.

Position Benefits:

* Medical benefits
* Employer-contributed 403B retirement program
* Greater Minneapolis monthly transit pass
* Paid attendance (including transportation, lodging and stipend) at National Federation of the Blind, state and/or national conventions
* Paid holiday leave totaling 19 days annually on average
* Accrued additional paid leave based on hours worked

Interested applicants should submit a resume, cover letter, salary expectations/history, and a one-page writing sample describing what makes the candidate unique for this position, to Jennifer Kennedy, Executive Director, at jkennedy@blindinc.org. We are looking to interview candidates in early 2020. Please be sure to include all materials, as incomplete applications will not be considered. We are looking for both blind and sighted job applicants.

Contact Jennifer Kennedy via email at jkennedy@blindinc.org, or at 612-872-0100 with any questions regarding this position.