

Roots of Empathy – Volunteer Instructor

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 nearly one million 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, Founder President Mary Gordon received the 2018 Governor General’s Innovation Award. The awards “recognize and celebrate outstanding Canadian individuals, teams and organizations – trailblazers and creators who contribute to our country’s success, who share our future and who inspire the next generation...building an inclusive, compassionate society will be the keys to Canada’s success as a caring, efficient and prosperous nation.” 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 volunteer Instructors for classrooms in the Toronto area. All applications are considered, however experience with children is an asset.

For more information please visit: www.rootsofempathy.org

This is a part-time volunteer position.

The commitment

- Attend a free four-day training – three days in the fall of 2018 and one day in January/February 2019.
- Visit the same classroom approximately once per week during the school year, for a total of 27 visits. Each visit is approximately 30 minutes long.
- Preparation for each classroom visit using the Roots of Empathy curriculum.
- Completion of a police check (vulnerable sector search)
- We ask for a two-year commitment

Roots of Empathy provides

- Free four-day training
- Curriculum
- Family visit kit including toys, blanket, books, etc
- One to one mentoring throughout the year
- Professional development opportunities

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

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Interested candidates should send an expression of interest to jobs@rootsofempathy.org