

TeenWork Employer Ambassadors



The TEEN WORK Times

What's new?

- CanAssist is excited to announce funding from the federal government through the Skills Link program to create a new group-based TeenWork stream in both Victoria and Vancouver! Discovery and Job Development are facilitated in group sessions, and participants receive one-on-one, on-site job coaching.
- TeenWork continues to focus on mental health and assistive technology for employment.
- In the 2017-18 fiscal year, TeenWork supported 40 participants.

Thank you to our generous individual supporters as well as the following organizations

Andrew Mahon Foundation

McAdams Foundation



vancouver foundation



For more information, please contact:
www.canassist.ca/teenwork

Greater Victoria: teenworkatcanassist@uvic.ca
Lower Mainland: teenwork@cbiconsultants.com

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Employer spotlight

SODEXO QUALITY OF LIFE SERVICES is an international company that holds a contract for the kitchen and janitorial services at St. Michael's University School (SMUS) in Victoria.

TeenWork first connected with Melissa Wood, Executive Chef at Sodexo Campus at SMUS, in August 2016 to explore the possibility of finding work for TeenWork participants interested in the food service industry. Two teens, Sarah* and Cheyenne, were hired in September 2016 to help with various critical tasks around the kitchen, such as dishwashing, wiping tables, mopping floors and serving meals to the many students.

One year later in August 2017, Mark McKee, the Custodial/Soft Services Manager at Sodexo Campus at SMUS, reached out to TeenWork. He was looking to hire someone for his team to look after cleaning classrooms, hallways and washrooms at the school.

Mark was able to find a great fit for the position in John (photo, right), a hard-working TeenWork participant who had previous experience doing quality testing of technology for CanAssist and working at Starbucks.

John needed a more consistent and sustainable job to continue building his career, but the young man was nervous to start working the 30 hours per week Mark required. Mark accommodated John with the scheduling, providing the opportunity to increase his hours as he became more confident and comfortable in his position. Sodexo encourages its staff members to grow and learn in their positions while presenting many opportunities for professional development and career advancement if the employee is interested.

"I really like the work and the people here," John said about working at Sodexo. Both the kitchen and janitorial teams have been very welcoming to the job coaches assisting TeenWork participants at the job site.

Mark reports, "Most of the employees with diverse abilities that I have worked with continuously and conclusively prove to me that the statistics don't lie. Reliability, strong work ethics, and attention to detail are certainly traits which most employers should find. What businesses are not looking to highlight these attributes in their prospective employees? Agencies like TeenWork and employees like John exemplify these ideals and make supporting these initiatives a no-brainer!"

Sodexo and TeenWork look forward to continuing their valuable partnership.

**name changed for participant's privacy*



Job coach updates



TEENWORK is thrilled to welcome new job coaches: Natalie and Kayla.

Natalie's background includes a BA in Child and Youth Studies and an MA in Early Childhood Studies. When she worked as a Residential

Counsellor for children with autism, her passion for supporting individuals with disabilities blossomed.

Kayla holds a BA in Psychology and has experience as an Educational Assistant and Early Childhood Instructor. Kayla enjoys using her creativity and critical thinking skills to develop personalized methods of support for people with disabilities.

Natalie and Kayla are excited to be part of the new TeenWork project with a common goal of helping youth overcome barriers to finding employment.

Real youth, real stories

TEENWORK first approached HomeSense in 2016. At the time, a youth was placed at Winners, a store that shares the same parent company, TJX. TeenWork connected with Margaret Ramsay, the Victoria store manager, to explore the possibility of part-time employment for two TeenWork participants.

After meeting Maranda (photo, right) and Yvonne, Margaret decided to take them on. Margaret and TeenWork then worked together to develop a customized position that would best fit both the store's needs and the abilities of the participants. Tasks included colour-coordinating and arranging towels and bedsheets, placing stickers, stocking merchandise and returning items to the shelves.

HomeSense was able to accommodate the two participants' need for shorter shifts by providing four-hour weekend positions. Both Yvonne and Maranda were continually supported by an inclusive and friendly team during and after their transition from the TeenWork program.

In 2017, Anna*, a new TeenWork participant, told job coaches her dream employment placement was at HomeSense. So TeenWork got in touch with Margaret, who found a spot for Anna. As she progressed through her



training, Anna took on a wide range of duties including customer service, unloading and unpacking stock and working in the warehouse at her own pace. Although the position typically involves an eight-hour shift, Anna's need for shorter hours has been accommodated. Anna is able to enjoy the duties of being a Sales Associate while working the shifts and hours that fit her needs.

HomeSense has continued to be very supportive of job coaches assisting TeenWork participants on site and has demonstrated tremendous dedication to being an inclusive employer. TeenWork looks forward to continuing the valuable connection and partnership with HomeSense.

Job candidate profiles



COLTON is a hard working and bright young man who values teamwork. He is interested in working in recreation, sports or the food sector. Colton hopes to find a rewarding job where he can gain valuable experience and skills. He is currently a lunch cafeteria assistant at his school, and has achieved the Cafeteria Service Award three times!

Education

- Currently in Grade 11
- Occupational First Aid Level 1

Experience

- Youth Leader in Training, Crystal Pool (Summer 2017)
- Football Charity Volunteer (2016)

For more information contact :

Annie Do, TeenWork Job Coach at 250-472-5954 or anniedo@uvic.ca



JOSH is a talented and hardworking individual who is interested in pursuing a future career in the tech and media industries. He is currently searching for work that will provide him with valuable customer service skills. In his spare time, he provides tech support, such as setting up routers and network equipment, for his friends and family members.

Education

- Currently in Grade 12
- Leadership training, Power to Be
- Vital cashier training, Vector

Experience

- London Drugs (Dec. 2017 - Jan. 2018)
- Tech Support (June 2016 - present)

For more information contact :

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