

THE FRESH AIR FUND SOCIAL WORK POSITION

SITE NAME: The Fresh Air Fund

LOCATION: New York, NY

CONTACT NAME/INFORMATION: Yuee Zhao, Outreach Coordinator, at 212-897-892,
<http://www.freshair.org/jobs.asp>

AGENCY DESCRIPTION: In 1877, The Fresh Air Fund, an independent not-for-profit organization, was created with one simple mission — to allow children living in disadvantaged communities to get away from hot, noisy city streets and enjoy free summer vacations in the country.

When The Fund began, New York City was overflowing with poor children living in crowded tenements. Many of these youngsters were hit by a tuberculosis epidemic, and “fresh air” was considered a cure for respiratory ailments.

125 years ago, the Reverend Willard Parsons, a minister of a small, rural parish in Sherman, Pennsylvania, asked members of his congregation to provide country vacations as volunteer host families for New York City’s neediest children. This was the beginning of The Fresh Air Fund. By 1881, the work of The Fund was expanding so rapidly that Reverend Parsons asked for and secured support from *The New York Tribune*. By 1888, The Fund was incorporated as “The Tribune Fresh Air Fund Aid Society.” Today, Fresh Air continues to benefit from the support of the media with invaluable assistance from *The New York Times*.

The Fund’s tradition of caring provides children with a much-needed respite from the inner-city streets. Thousands of youngsters enjoy summer vacations with volunteer hosts or attend five Fund camps in upstate New York.

The simplicity of our program is its strength. Looking back to 1877, we can reflect on how much has changed, and how much has stayed the same. The Fund began with a small group of youngsters heading for the country and went on to benefit more than 1.7 million needy children.

JOB DESCRIPTION: COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SUPPORT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Social Work Assistants:

Social Work Assistants serve on a team to provide 24-hour on-call service to parents, children, host families, camp directors, and volunteer leaders, and document all communications. Assist all parties to solve child, parent and host concerns including homesickness, behavior management issues, personality conflicts, etc. Candidates must possess a bachelor degree and 3 years of related work experience in social work or counseling. MSW preferred. Candidates should possess strong interpersonal and organizational skills, flexibility, stamina and a commitment to children and families. Spanish speaking skill is a plus. Applicants must be able to help parents, host families and children problem-solve and resolve issues that arise during two-week vacations. Start Date: June 2008.

To apply for any of the Community Outreach and Support Services positions, please send your resume and cover letter to: coss@freshair.org.