



## **JOB POSTING: DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**The mission of Sonshine Community Services:** Motivated by our Christian Faith, we help women and children transform their lives. We envision a community where women and children live safely in healthy families

Sonshine Community Services is in its second year of running the first accredited Children's Centre of its kind in Canada which caters specifically to children who have been traumatized by domestic violence as well as other forms of emotional trauma. The Children's Centre is staffed with a full contingent of professionals who are knowledgeable about the effects of trauma on children and trained in Theraplay©, an attachment based therapeutic form of play. In the last year we have developed, and continue to develop, a number of strategic partnerships to assist our team in meeting the needs of children recovering from trauma. Within its first year and a half, Sonshine's Children's Centre won the Program Award for *Child Development Professional: Award of Excellence* from Alberta Human Services. Throughout Sonshine's growth, the organization's consistent and primary focus remains on the women and children in its care. Staff and volunteers are very committed and passionate about Sonshine's work and the successful outcomes of its programs which clients have experienced. Our Executive Director is recognized as a leader in the domestic violence sector and leads an inspiring team environment where staff and volunteers desire to do more to give back to the community. In addition to the team environment and culture, the organization offers a comprehensive benefits package and supports training courses to enhance career development.

### **Purpose of the Position**

The Director of the Children's Centre works to create and maintain an innovative, therapeutic child care program for children who have experienced family violence and/or trauma, in close collaboration with the Executive Director and members of the Children's Services team. The individual provides leadership and program management for the Sonshine Children's Centre. They have a thorough understanding of family violence, as well as the systems needed to provide excellent care to children and their families who have experienced this. In addition, they apply their skills related to counseling theory and practice.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- Work closely with the Executive Director to establish a strategic plan for Sonshine Children's Program including the new Centre activities that aligns with the Board of Directors' goals.

- Create the annual goals and evaluate program delivery of these goals on an ongoing basis to ensure it reflects the mandate of Sonshine Children’s Program and the newly developed Children Centre, as well as consistent improvement of the program.
- Gather and interpret agency statistics, remain current with the literature and trends in therapeutic care of children, as well as assess community needs and service gaps with regards to the needs of children affected by trauma and family violence.
- Manage and provide leadership to a team of 4-7 direct reports including community partners involved in the delivery of services.
- Support a strong team environment by promoting open communication and positive working relationships with staff.
- Communicate the vision and goals of Sonshine Children’s Centre to the team to ensure consistent delivery.
- Partner with the Day Care Supervisor to recruit child and youth care staff and a children’s therapeutic team.
- Build relationships by liaising with relevant service agencies, organizations, government bodies and educational institutions.
- Prepare the annual Children Program budget and monthly reports to present to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors for approval

### **Qualifications and Skills**

- 5+ years’ experience in a counseling role, preferably with children and families in a family violence field.
- Expert Knowledge in trauma and trauma informed practice especially relating to children
- Expert knowledge in the developmental needs of children and the impact that toxic stress may have on these needs.
- 4+ years’ experience in a management role leading a team of direct reports.
- Experience working for a non-profit organization
- Master’s Degree in Social Work or related field
- Experience in developing and managing annual department budgets of over \$500,000 dollars.
- Eligible to pass a police and child welfare security check.
- Understanding of basic Child and Youth Care practice and how children are affected by family violence;
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Strong flexibility skills with the ability to think and act quickly based on the situation.



- Questioning attitude to determine how things can be done better.
- Good leadership, time management, and organizational skills.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality, particularly around sensitive issues and situations impacting clients.

### Requirements

- Police and Child Welfare security checks

Please submit resume and cover letter no later than February 3, 2017 to:

Sherilyn Downie, *Executive Assistant*  
Sonshine Community Services  
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Calgary, AB T3C 3W2  
Email: [sdownie@sonshine.ca](mailto:sdownie@sonshine.ca) Fax: (403) 287-2194

*Sonshine Community Services is an equal opportunity employer.*

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.