



## Internship Description

## PEER INTERN

24 hours/week

Rainbow Heights Club is a non-profit psychosocial support and advocacy program serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults living with major mental illness. We are currently seeking applicants for **Peer Internships**. Rainbow Heights Club is located in downtown Brooklyn. Please visit our website - [www.rainbowheights.org](http://www.rainbowheights.org) - for more information about our services and programs.

Rainbow Heights Club currently serves over 650 members, and has a staff of 14, including a psychologist, social workers, peer specialists, student interns, and volunteers. Our clients are lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender adult individuals who are living with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, mental retardation, developmental disability, and substance and alcohol use issues. Our work is extremely effective: 94% of the people who come to Rainbow Heights Club remain hospitalization free. We are seeking outstanding, motivated, knowledgeable, energetic, charismatic, and experienced people to help us expand our team.

### **Position Description**

The peer intern position at Rainbow Heights Club will be an opportunity for a qualified individual to expand their experience providing direct supportive services to LGBT mental health consumers. The responsibilities of Peer Interns will vary based on the skills and interests of the individual, as well as the needs of the membership. One Internship opportunities is available at present, as follows:

**Peer Intern** - Responsibilities of the Peer Intern may include:

- Assisting with meal planning, food shopping, meal preparation
- Maintaining cleanliness of kitchen
- Enlisting the assistance of other club members during meal cleanup
- Co-facilitating support and activity groups
- Conduct 1:1 supportive counseling with club members
- Other duties as assigned.

### **The following are requirements for the positions:**

- Minimum high school graduate or GED and participation in a Peer Training program, such as Howie T. Harp or some college.
- A professional attitude while maintaining a flexible, reliable, patient, organized, trustworthy, supportive, and kind mindset. You must be competent to work with people from many different racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.
- Regardless of your sexual orientation or gender identity, you must be proud of and comfortable with it, and you must be ready, willing, and able to discuss these topics with Rainbow Heights Club consumers.
- You must be comfortable with, knowledgeable about, and sensitive to issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. It is vastly preferable if this knowledge comes out of your own experience.
- You must be comfortable with, knowledgeable about, and sensitive to issues related to mental health and mental illness, including severe and persistent mental illness, as well as substance abuse and recovery. You must be able to utilize your knowledge of mental health and mental illness to provide effective support to club members.
- Prior experience working with adults living with major mental illness a plus

Qualified candidates should forward a cover letter and resume to: Randy Killings, Director of Peer Services at [randykillings@rainbowheights.org](mailto:randykillings@rainbowheights.org) or via fax at 718-285-8610. We are an EOP. Persons from communities of color and persons living with disabilities are encouraged to apply. No phone calls please.