Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Be part of a dynamic organization that directly impacts the lives of thousands of individuals and their families in nationally recognized premier programs that offer innovative and individualized methods of education, recreation, training, and rehabilitation. Join the Junior Blind team! Junior Blind helps children, youth and adults reach their greatest potential.

We are currently seeking an Orientation and Mobility Specialist for The Hatlen Center for the Blind, a program of Junior Blind of America located in San Pablo, California. This position works Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The primary purpose of the Orientation and Mobility specialist position is to organize, plan and implement orientation and mobility services to adults who are blind and visually impaired and who may or may not have additional disabilities. In addition, as an O&M Specialist, you will be responsible for planning and implementing financial management curriculum for several students. This position reports directly to The Hatlen Center Program Director.

Major Responsibilities:

- Assess each client’s orientation and mobility skills and in collaboration with the client, develop goals to address the client’s individual living skills needs.

- Assess each client’s financial management skills and in collaboration with the client, develop goals to address the client’s individual financial management needs. Financial management includes medical needs, pre-vocational skills and social skills.

- Develop and carry out a program of individualized Orientation and Mobility instruction that may include pre-cane skills, cane skills, concept development, indoor travel, street crossings, travel in a variety of environments, use of public transportation including Para transit, group travel, occasional work with dog guide teams, use of orientation and mobility aids (maps, monocular, assistive technology), and route planning.

- Develop and carry out a program of individualized Financial Management instruction that may include organization skills, self-advocacy, social services, Department of Rehabilitation, communication, housing, finances and budgeting, medical, pre-vocational and social skills.

- Emphasize the effective use of any residual vision, tactile and other sensory modes, and reinforces learning associated with other areas of instruction.

- Make careful observations and evaluations concerning clients’ progress and maintain detailed tracking notes. Prepare reports as required.

- Participate in and develop curriculum for weekly group classes across a variety of subjects.

- Participate in weekly apartment inspections.
• Participate in and help plan daytime recreational activities; participate in three day annual ski trip and any other overnight fieldtrips as they arise.

• Participate in departmental and agency-wide planning and evaluation functions. Make recommendations concerning living skills training/financial management training and future planning.

• Maintain a working knowledge of local and national resources and of significant trends in the field of blind education and rehabilitation through review of the literature and participation in seminars.

• Supervise activities of the teacher’s aide, student teachers, and volunteers in jurisdiction; assist with in-services.

• Coordinate special projects or programs (i.e., arrange tours of Center for staff members from other agencies, orient new Junior Blind staff members, provide public information and education regarding Junior Blind services to other agencies, etc.) as needed.

• Promote the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process by identifying quality indicators and opportunities for departmental and organizational process improvement.

• May perform other duties as assigned by Supervisor.

Qualifications:

• Clinical Rehabilitative Credential in Orientation and Mobility from an accredited college or university required.
• Master’s Degree in Special Education preferred.
• Within one year of hire, obtain certification through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist and maintain the certification throughout employment.
• Possess good knowledge of implications of blindness and secondary disabilities.
• Valid California Driver’s License and approval and eligibility to drive agency vehicles by Junior Blind’s insurance carrier.
• Possess the ability to make independent decisions when circumstances warrant such action.
• Possess the ability to seek out new methods and principles and be willing to incorporate them into existing curricula.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to:

Junior Blind of America
Human Resources Department
5300 Angeles Vista Boulevard,
Los Angeles, CA  90043
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