



## **Children's Fresh Air Farm - Counselor**

### **The Program**

The Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF) was founded in 1923 to serve children across Birmingham by promoting spiritual and personal growth while experiencing creation. Since that time, the primary objective has remained the same, but the mission has evolved. Children's Fresh Air Farm exists to nurture children in mind, body, and spirit, by offering a program of excellence in academics, enrichment, physical education, spiritual, and emotional development.

In 2010, Independent Presbyterian Church started a six-week Summer Learning Program (SLP) at the Children's Fresh Air Farm dedicated to providing high-impact learning opportunities in support of local school instruction; elevating opportunities, resources, and academic achievement within our community. The program is focused on academics taught by certified teachers and enrichment activities provided by community partners. Enrichment activities include on-site swimming lessons, art, music, drama, and field trips. A full-service dining hall allows for a healthy breakfast and lunch to be served daily. Today the program serves rising 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students primarily from the Avondale, Woodlawn, and Kingston neighborhoods. Our vision is to be catalyst in creating academically successful, spiritually and emotionally strong, healthy individuals who approach the world with curiosity, empathy, and creativity in order to become the leaders of Birmingham and beyond.

### **Position Summary**

*The Children's Fresh Air Farm is seeking a Counselor to provide high quality comprehensive guidance counseling to 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Summer Learning Program students. This role will report to the Director of Children's Fresh Air Farm. **The position is at the Children's Fresh Air Farm, a 35-acre campus located at 501 Park Avenue, Hoover, AL 35226, and the regular schedule will be 8:00 am until 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday from June 13, 2024, through July 26, 2024, with additional duties as described below.***

### **Primary Responsibilities and Tasks**

- Attend orientation, currently scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2024
- Communicate educator or student needs to Director or other appropriate personnel
- Demonstrate commitment and willingness to support the intellectual, physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of students
- Provide counseling and support to summer learning students in 1:1, group, and small group setting

- Collaborate with teachers to provide age appropriate and engaging social-emotional enrichment and support
- Willingness and ability to engage professionally and collaborate with tutors or other volunteers serving students during the Summer Learning Program
- Establish effective rapport with students
- Motivate students to develop skills, attitudes, and knowledge needed to provide educational foundation
- Conduct counseling and guidance learning activities in the classroom in collaboration with teaching staff for each assigned grade level
- Work collaboratively with teachers and other program staff to support student needs
- Assist in test administration (occurs at beginning and end of summer learning)
- Supervise students during guest speakers, field trips, lunch, recess, etc.
- Attend staff meetings
- Provide program evaluation
- Demonstrate initiative in identifying opportunities for improvements in areas of responsibility
- Other duties as assigned

### **Ideal Candidate**

- Seasoned professional capable of planning and facilitating engaging lessons, utilizing best-practice pedagogies to support the social, emotional, and spiritual development of students
- Effective interpersonal skills, with an emphasis on communication and collaboration with a diverse population of students, teachers, parents, volunteers, and enrichment staff
- 3-5 years' experience as a counselor in an elementary school *or* family therapy setting
- Ability to solve problems as a productive team member
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Computer literacy, including Windows and Excel
- A mature personality and system of beliefs compatible with IPC's theology, its approach to ministry, and the goals of the Summer Learning Program

### **Qualifications**

- Master's Degree or higher in School Counseling, Couples and Family Counseling, or Clinical Mental Health Counseling, or Licensed Clinical Social Worker from an accredited college or university

### **Physical Demands of the Position**

- Physical stamina and ability to maintain a constant state of alertness to interact with children and CFAF staff over an eight-hour day, including time spent outside during summer months
- Ability to walk throughout the site of the Children's Fresh Air Farm, including some rough and uneven terrain

- Kneeling, crouching, stooping, reaching, standing, sitting, ascending, and descending stairs
- Visual acuity—close and distant vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and ability to focus, with or without correction
- Talking—expressing or exchanging ideas by means of the spoken word
- Hearing—perceiving the nature of sounds at normal speaking levels, with or without correction

### **About Independent Presbyterian Church**

Independent Presbyterian Church (IPC), located in Birmingham, Alabama, is a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. We believe God calls us to be a Christian community, actively engaged in transforming lives through our living faith in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. All are welcome and invited to worship here and to discover ways to grow your faith, serve in ministry to others, and build relationships through fellowship. Learn more at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org).

IPC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or other protected category under the laws applicable to IPC.

### **Other Information**

Applicants will be required to complete an IPC employment application, which requires disclosure of any history of criminal activity and/or sex offense. Upon preliminary selection of a candidate, IPC will conduct a background check, reference checks, and a pre-employment drug screen.

This position description should not be construed to imply that these requirements are the exclusive standards of the position. Academic teachers will follow any other instructions and perform any other related duties as may be required.

**Interested in Applying?** Email your resume to Becky Wright at [CFAF@ipc-usa.org](mailto:CFAF@ipc-usa.org).