



### **Assistance Dog Trainer (full-time)**

Keystone Human Services is the parent organization of six nonprofit subsidiary companies. We work to create an environment where all people, regardless of ability, can grow, make choices and be valued and contributing members of the community. In this vision, we see the welfare of all people being vested in the welfare of each individual. Our services include the areas of intellectual disabilities, autism, mental health, Head Start, and an internationally accredited service dog program.

Susquehanna Service Dogs is seeking a full time Assistance Dog Trainer to join in our mission of providing assistance dogs that give people the confidence to live more independent lives, doing things they didn't think possible.

The Assistance Dog Trainer facilitates advanced training to meet the individualized needs of each SSD partner. This position develops and implements detailed training plans, evaluates dogs for placement, and provides support and guidance to SSD partners.

#### Responsibilities Include:

- Train assistance dogs in accordance with Least Intrusive Minimally Aversive principles using positive reinforcement via the clicker method
- Develop, implement and document detailed training plans
- Ensure the physical and mental well-being of the dogs by providing age-appropriate enrichment, as well as recognizing and responding appropriately to dog body language and signs of stress
- Transport dogs to public locations to develop and maintain their public access skills and assistance dog tasks
- Participate in the partner matching process and supports partners in successfully pairing with their assistance dog at the time of placement and throughout the working life of the dog
- Maintain the training area and equipment to assure safety and functionality
- Assists with canine evaluations, client interviews and home visits, puppy program classes and outings as needed

#### Position Details/Benefits:

- Full time, non exempt position
- \$ 15 per hour, may increase based on education and experience
- Primarily daytime hours with flexibility to meet program needs
- Position requires regular travel to locations throughout the greater Harrisburg area and occasional travel within a 4-hour driving radius of the training facility
- Competitive benefits package including medical, dental, vision, 401K and more
- Generous paid time off program
- Extensive training and learning opportunities
- Tuition reimbursement per eligibility requirements
- Career development and advancement

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Dog training certification (i.e. KPA-CTP, CPDT, or IAABC) or equivalent
- Two years of experience working with dogs, including experience using positive reinforcement training

- Knowledge of mental and physical health of dogs and canine communication, and training methods
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, organization, and administrative skills
- Intermediate computer skills, ability to use Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and learn web based systems
- Valid driver's license and daily access to privately maintained and insured vehicle
- Successful completion of pre-employment process, including Criminal History, Child Abuse and FBI clearances

Preferred Qualifications:

- Associate's or bachelor's degree in related field

Keystone Human Services is committed to an inclusive workplace that does not discriminate against race, nationality, religion, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or any other protected characteristic under federal, state or local law. We believe in diversity and encourage any qualified individual to apply.

Disclaimer: The preceding job description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees within this job. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities and qualifications required of employees assigned to this job.

[Apply](#)