

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: WRITING WORKSHOP VOLUNTEER

“The Beat Within” Weekly Writing Workshops inside the Fresno County Juvenile Justice Campus (JJC) One-year commitment required

The Beat Within (www.thebeatwithin.org) has published a weekly magazine of writing and art from inside Juvenile Halls since 1996. This nationally recognized publication opens a window into the lives of those young people whom this society is leaving behind in so many ways. Each week our team of volunteers do 40+ one-hour workshops in Juvenile Halls in Alameda, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Marin, Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties, as well as in New Mexico, Arizona, Minnesota and New York. In 2008, The Beat Within began workshops in Fresno County’s JJC – in partnership with “The kNOw” magazine, a youth media project based in West Fresno, and Focus Forward, a local arts program inside Fresno’s JJC.

Qualifications

Experience counts, but it is not all that counts. We are looking most of all for someone who can make a weekly commitment, for at least a year. Our volunteers include journalists, artists, community organizers, poets, formerly incarcerated youth, retired community members, and students from a variety of disciplines. Qualified applicants should have:

- A commitment and comfort in communicating with at risk youth
- A willingness to work closely with a diverse team that includes youth, community organizers and probation staff
- Able to work on Fridays somewhere between the hours of 3-6pm
- Comfort with public speaking and leadership
- Strong writing, typing and editing skills
- Your own means of transportation to the Juvenile Justice Campus (on American Ave just off Highway 99)
- Access to a computer for typing/emailing writings
- A clean criminal record that will pass probation department clearance (and you must be over the age of 21 to pass)

Compensation

This is a weekly volunteer position. We do pay a \$25 stipend for each one-hour workshop conducted to help offset travel and other costs associated with volunteering.

Application Process

If you are interested, please go first to our website and make yourself familiar with The Beat Within writers and their remarkable stories. We are looking for someone who shares our belief that these writings serve a therapeutic purpose for the writers and have the power to impact public awareness and public policy. ***Then plan to attend the Informational Session on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 from 5:30-6:30pm at The kNOw’s office (302 Fresno St, Suite 203). To RSVP for the session, send an email to Mai Der Vang at mvang@newamericamedia.org. Please also attach in the email a brief cover letter and resume.***

About Us

The Beat Within is a project of Pacific News Service/New America Media (www.newamericamedia.org), which was founded in 1969 as an alternative news service. PNS/NAM now incubates ten unique youth media projects in California, runs a national association of ethnic media and syndicates print, video and audio content media online, on television and on radio. In 2004 PNS/NAM hosted a statewide EXPO of ethnic media in Fresno, and in 2006 founded “The kNOw” magazine (www.theknowfresno.org) to spearhead a voice for young people in the Central Valley.