

## **Support Group Facilitator**

### *Gilda's Club Greater Toronto*

“There are those who open their hearts to others...who never think twice about giving of themselves. They are the wonderful, warm hearted people who make all the difference in our lives.”

- Gilda Radner -

**If you can imagine yourself improving the quality of life for people impacted by cancer and their families then Gilda's Club Greater Toronto may be the place for you.**

#### Who We Are

Gilda's Club Greater Toronto (GCGT) is a registered charity that is making an important difference for cancer patients, their family and friends in the Greater Toronto Area. It is one of 175 members of the Cancer Support Community (CSC), the largest professionally led non-profit network of cancer support worldwide, which delivers more than \$50 million in free support services to patients and families.

Gilda's Club Greater Toronto has often been referred to as “the missing link in the cancer care system.” ~ Patrick J. Gullane, MB,FRCSC,FACS,FRACS (Otolaryngologist, University Health Network).

Gilda's Club is named after legendary comedian Gilda Radner of Saturday Night Live fame, who died of cancer in 1989. While in treatment in the mid-80's, Gilda visited a cancer support community in Los Angeles where she found others going through a similar experience to hers and she drew strength and comfort from that supportive environment. It was Gilda's hope that “such support communities” be available to anyone touched by cancer so no one would have to face cancer alone.

#### What We Do

The impact of cancer is not only physical but deeply emotional. Gilda's Club Greater Toronto (Gilda's) is a community of support where people facing the fear and uncertainty of a cancer diagnosis, personally or for a loved one, can find strength in others who share their experience. The supportive and educational programs at Gilda's are an essential component of a complete cancer care plan and a compliment to medical treatment. Those who seek support in this community are embraced as “Members”.

Since 2001, Gilda's has improved the quality of life for more than 12,000 Members experiencing cancer-related stress, to restore a sense of control, redefine hope, reduce stress and isolation during and after cancer treatment for improved quality of life. All programs are provided free of charge so there is no financial barrier to accessing support in this community.

Today, with the added worries related to COVID-19 and the need for physical distancing, Gilda's operates virtually, connecting with Members online to deliver programs that include education, physical activity and support groups from the comfort of their own

homes. This thriving virtual community has become for some, the only connection to emotional support, the only outlet for physical exercise and the only place to meet others who can relate to their feelings of isolation, fear and anxiety.

### Position Overview

Reporting to the Director, Clinical Programs, the Support Group Facilitator is someone who enjoys interfacing with the community and delivering cancer support programs through virtual mediums. The Support Group Facilitator is a mental health professional whose knowledge of oncology and background in group facilitator, will provide quality therapeutic support.

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Facilitates 8 week member support group (s) ( i.e. Living with Cancer, Caregivers, Adult Bereavement, Post-Treatment, Kids Talk Out, Kids Grieve Too, Teen Talk)
- Completes a clinical note after each Support group and submits it in a timely fashion to the Gilda's Club Greater Toronto Program Director.
- Attendance at the monthly clinical group supervision, and quarterly facilitation meetings
- Reports both administratively and clinically to Gilda's Club Greater Toronto Director, Clinical Programs
- Other duties as assigned, as negotiated and agreed upon, as defined by the Gilda's Club Greater Toronto Program Director

### **Qualifications:**

- Professional graduate degree in Social Work, Psychology, Child Life Specialist or a related mental health field, from an accredited institution.
- Current registration with a Canadian professional regulatory body
- Minimum of 3 years post-graduate clinical experience
- Group facilitation experience required.
- Familiarity in working with adults and or children/teens in the area of oncology, and grief/loss would be most advantageous
- Commitment to Gilda's Club mission and Program philosophy with participation in orientation and ongoing training as it relates to Gilda's Club and its Program.
- Available for evening hours as group schedule dictates.
- A knowledge of the local community and cancer support services is preferred.
- Completion and submission of a Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Screening on an annual basis.
- Confirmation and proof of liability insurance

Commensurate with experience, the successful candidate will receive a fee of \$120 per week. This fee covers the weekly 1.5 hour group facilitation, group preparation, attended monthly supervision and facilitator meetings)

The successful applicant will need to undergo and pass a Vulnerable Sector Screening police check.

Gilda's Club Greater Toronto is an equal opportunity employer. Gilda's Club is committed to delivering and improving accessibility in employment for all persons with disabilities. Accommodation is available, upon request, in the application and interview process and in the course of all other methods of selection of employees. Successful candidates for employment will be introduced to and trained in respect of all of our human rights, accommodation and accessibility policies.

#### How to apply

Please send your resume, cover letter via email with the subject line reading "Support Group Facilitator" and the group you are interested in facilitating (see appendix) in confidence to: [info@gildasclubtoronto.org](mailto:info@gildasclubtoronto.org)

Application deadline: August 6, 2021

Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. We thank all applicants for their interest in working at Gilda's Club Greater Toronto.

#### Employment Type

- Contract
- Eight (8) week contract with potential opportunity to extend.
- Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, the successful candidate must be able to work at home as mutually determined in advance.

## Appendix: Gilda's Club Greater Toronto Support Group Descriptions

### Adult Support Groups:

**Adult Bereavement Support Group:** A support group for individuals who have had a loved one (family or friend) die of cancer. This therapeutic group encourages participants to explore and share their experiences and feelings around their grief. Areas of grief that may be discussed may include guilt/anger, relationships, triggers, and self-care with others who are facing similar circumstances

**Caregiver Support Group:** A support group for caregivers (family or friends) who have a loved one with a cancer diagnosis. This group may touch upon such topics as managing at home, relationships, and dealing with emotion. The group will focus on the self-care of the caregiver and aims to decrease stress while talking to others who are facing similar circumstances.

**Post- Treatment Support Group:** A support group for individuals who have completed cancer treatment. The group offers a space to discuss dealing with the impact of cancer on your relationships, emotions, long-term side effects from treatment and decrease stress while talking to others who are facing similar circumstances.

### Youth Support Groups:

**Teen Talk:** is a weekly professionally-led, peer-support program featuring a unique, digital storytelling experience for teens whose lives have been impacted by cancer. The group promotes creativity, self-confidence, self-expression, and community. The program has been adapted to connect teens virtually where they focus on supporting one another, develop coping strategies and skills on how to tell their personal stories while utilizing media. This community group helps youth find their own unique voices within a safe and supportive environment of positive peer relationships. **This program is designed for teens ages 13 - 18 who has an immediate relative living with cancer.**

**Teen Talk (Bereaved):** is a weekly professionally-led, peer-support program featuring a unique, digital storytelling experience for teens whose lives have been impacted by cancer. The group promotes creativity, self-confidence, self-expression, and community. The program has been adapted to connect teens virtually where they focus on supporting one another, develop coping strategies and skills on how to tell their personal stories while utilizing media. This community group helps youth find their own unique voices within a safe and supportive environment of positive peer relationships. **This program is designed for teens ages 13 - 18 whose friend and family member have died from cancer.**