

# **FAMILY CAREGIVERS**

## **CONTRACT DESCRIPTION**

### **Caregiver Requirements**

- Knowledge of youth related issues and youth development
- Well developed self-care and coping skills
- Ability to provide structure and consistent parenting while remaining flexible
- Ability to work within a team framework
- Communication skills
- Ability to self-assess; open to feedback, constructive criticism and direction
- Available for training
- Willingness to participate in The John Howard Society of North Island application process
- Can provide accommodation that meets the Ministry of Children and Families Development Standards
- Experience working with youth is an *asset*

### **Caregiver Responsibilities**

- To commit to the duration of the placement
- To be available to the youth and the program staff twenty four hours per day
- To provide a safe home environment
- To provide each youth with the basic necessities of life: adequate food, clothing, shelter
- To support the youth's participation in prescribed programming
- To supervise access to the community
- To actively participate in the case management team
- To adhere to the principles of respect and human dignity
- To provide encouragement and support, structure and consistency

### **Placement Process**

- Target population youth ages 12 to 19
- Referrals from Youth Probation Officers and contracted agencies

### **Caregiver Support**

- Caregivers receive direct support from The John Howard Society of North Island
- Caregivers will receive ongoing training upon completion of a thorough selection process

- Mandatory periods of relief are reimbursed to the caregiver. Relief caregivers must meet the standards of the caregiver selection process and be approved by The John Howard Society of North Island.

### **Standards of Practice**

- We prefer that at least one of the caregivers does not work outside the home
- Caregivers must comply with The John Howard Society of North Island and Ministry of Children and Family Development standards for residential care
- Caregivers will encourage a natural family involvement
- Caregivers will provide intervention as mutually determined by the case management team
- Caregivers will utilize an empathetic, respectful approach
- Caregivers will maintain a reporting process that is mutually agreed upon, including regular documentation of youth activities and incidents
- Caregivers will be responsible for the day to day care and supervision of the youth
- Caregivers will maintain a level of residential cleanliness that ensures the health and safety of the residents

### **Youth Programming**

- Youth will participate in weekday daily programming designed to offer skill development in problem solving, decision making, and life skills
- Youth will participate in additional programs based on individual needs