



## ***Day in the life of the: Youth Advocate***

**Your schedule** – This is an hourly position, primarily Monday through Friday in a school setting. However, your commitment calls on you to respond to student crises during non-business hours as well. It is typically a very structured and consistent schedule that enables a great work/life balance.

**Your responsibilities** – You are entrusted to use every tool in your tool belt to accomplish one goal: ensure students graduate. You are driven to help at-risk high school students achieve success.

Youth Advocates have a wealth of personal talent and tools available to them, which they use to:

- monitor life issues;
- track grades;
- ensure the students are attending class;
- provide mentorship;
- motivate students to engage in after-school programs; and
- communicate with Teachers, families, and School Counselors to monitor progress.

You are also there every step of the way to carry out enhanced services such as:

- helping students qualify for job training and to support them at work until graduation;
- creating interest groups and clubs that promote leadership skills, improve study skills, provide tutoring; and
- plan field trips within the budget to local community colleges and other neighboring universities.

Youth Advocates also assist with educational development post-graduation by creating a post-secondary support system within their geographic area.

Time management and ensuring you are engaged with each youth is critical while managing a large case load. Youth Advocates typically report into a Team Manager who provides support and guidance as needed.

**Your Background** –You have prepared well for the Youth Advocate role with prior education and experience that includes, but is not limited to Education or Family Counseling Degrees and volunteer experience in youth outreach programs or other experience working with urban youth. You will quickly be among the Youth Advocate “A” team if you have demonstrated qualities of adaptability, time management skills, the ability to take initiative and go above and beyond, and accepting challenges.

**Your Total Experience** – At every stage, this role is defined by a regular cycle of giving and receiving. As much as you do every day, the rewards quickly come back in the form of lasting relationships with the youth in our programs, watching the youth grow as students, aiding in their ability to graduate, and seeing their increased sense of accomplishment. The most rewarding aspect is seeing the youth succeed in all aspects of life that aren’t just limited to the school setting. It’s important to understand that the youth don’t always have the ideal level of support in their home environment, that’s why your commitment and talents are truly critical to their success.

Hillside is equally committed to the career goals and aspirations of its staff, it’s part of our Shared Vision! You can build from the Youth Advocate position by moving into a Manager role and overseeing other Youth Advocates. Wherever you want to go, the Hillside team is behind you all the way.

Hillside Family of Agencies provides individualized health, education, and human services in partnership with children, youth, adults, and their families through an integrated system of care. Our Youth Advocates are personally and professionally dedicated to this mission not only in practice but in spirit.

*“This position is perfect for people who want to work with youth and make an impact on their educational and personal goals.”*

-Youth Advocate’s, Syracuse and Rochester