

Children and Families Outreach Worker

St. Laurence Anglican Church, Coquitlam, BC
Part-Time | 8-10 hours per week | \$28/hr



About St. Laurence Anglican Church

St. Laurence Anglican Church is a growing, affirming congregation in Coquitlam, BC, part of the Diocese of New Westminster. We gather and serve on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the kwikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem) First Nation, shared historically with the q̓ičəy̓ (Katzie) and other Coast Salish Peoples.

We are committed to living out the good news of Jesus Christ in the world: worshipping with depth and joy, welcoming every person without reservation, and doing justice in the Tri-Cities and beyond. The renewal of our building has created flexible, welcoming facilities that open new possibilities for community ministry, and we are now investing in dedicated outreach leadership to help us serve the families and neighbours around us.

St. Laurence positively embraces the queer community, recognising the identity of 2SLGBTQI+ people as a gift of God in creation. Every person who comes through our doors will be welcomed, affirmed, and valued for who they are.

The Opportunity

St. Laurence is seeking a Children and Families Outreach Worker to build relationships with families in the Tri-Cities, particularly in our Coquitlam neighbourhood, who are not yet connected to church life. This is a new, grant-funded role created as part of a three-year diocesan-supported initiative: New Pathways for Community and Faith Formation.

The first year of this role is explicitly exploratory. Rather than delivering a fixed programme, the Outreach Worker will listen carefully to the community, research local need, build relationships with families and partner organisations, and pilot a small number of initiatives that respond to what they find. The shape of the ongoing ministry will emerge from that listening and learning, not from a predetermined plan.

To give a sense of the kinds of initiative we have in mind: a drop-in gathering for parents and carers of young children, partnerships with local schools or food banks, family-friendly seasonal events, or other low-barrier points of connection between St. Laurence and the wider community. These are illustrations, not requirements; the right candidate will help discern what will actually serve families well in this place and at this time.

This role sits alongside the Children's & Families Minister, who focuses on the pastoral and formational dimensions of ministry with families already connected to the parish. Together, these two roles form a complementary team: one rooted in the congregation, one rooted in the community.

Role Summary

The Children and Families Outreach Worker will build and sustain relationships between St. Laurence and the families, organisations, and networks of the wider Tri-Cities community. This is a relational, outward-facing role: listening to the needs of the neighbourhood, creating welcoming points of connection, and helping the parish serve those who may never have considered a church as a place for them.

This is not primarily an administrative role. The Outreach Worker's most important work is relational: getting to know families, earning trust, building partnerships, and helping people feel genuinely welcome. Structures and programmes exist to serve those relationships, not the other way around.

The role reports to the Rector and works in close collaboration with the Children's & Families Minister. The time budget of 8-10 hours per week is designed to prioritise active community engagement; planning, administration, and reporting will be structured to protect those hours accordingly.

Key Responsibilities

Community Listening and Relationship-Building

- Build genuine, trust-based relationships with families in our Coquitlam neighbourhood and the wider Tri-Cities who are not currently connected to church life.
- Listen carefully to the needs, experiences, and questions of local families, allowing the shape of the outreach ministry to be formed in response to what is actually needed.
- Represent St. Laurence in local networks, community events, and neighbourhood settings, enhancing the parish's visibility and reputation as a welcoming, serving community presence.
- Identify and respond to opportunities to connect families with appropriate support, resources, and community networks.

Piloting and Developing Outreach Initiatives

- Research, design, and pilot a small number of relational initiatives that create accessible points of connection between St. Laurence and local families; for example, drop-in gatherings for parents and carers, family events, intergenerational worship, or seasonal activities.
- Evaluate each pilot thoughtfully, learning from what works and what does not, and shaping the ongoing programme accordingly.
- Where appropriate, create simple, low-barrier moments of prayer, reflection, or spiritual care for families who welcome it.
- Recruit, equip, and support volunteers to help develop and sustain outreach initiatives over time.

Partnership Development

- Develop and maintain productive working relationships with local schools, early years settings, food banks, community centres, family support organisations, and other civic partners.
- Explore opportunities for collaborative projects, referral pathways, and shared initiatives that serve children and families across the community.
- Represent St. Laurence at relevant community forums, networks, and events, building the parish's profile as a committed community partner.

Communication and Administration

- Communicate clearly and regularly with families, volunteers, partners, and parish leadership through appropriate channels.
 - Maintain simple records of community contacts, partnership activity, and programme participation to support evaluation and reporting.
 - Contribute to parish planning and reporting as required, participating in staff meetings in a way that protects active outreach hours within the 10-hour weekly allocation.
 - Work closely with the Children's & Families Minister to ensure the pastoral and outreach dimensions of family ministry are well integrated and mutually reinforcing.
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Person Specification

Essential

- Experience in community outreach, community development, family support, social work, early years work, or a related field.
- Strong relational skills and the ability to build trust with people from a wide range of backgrounds.
- A genuine commitment to serving families and children in the community, with warmth, respect, and cultural sensitivity.
- An entrepreneurial and adaptable approach; comfortable starting new initiatives, working with ambiguity, and learning by doing.
- Good organisational and communication skills: verbal, written, and interpersonal.
- A collaborative spirit and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.
- A basic understanding of safeguarding and the ability to create safe, appropriate environments for children and families.
- Willingness to obtain a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening prior to commencing employment.
- Completion of safer church training as a condition of employment, with ongoing participation in refresher training as required.
- Willingness to work flexible hours, including some Saturdays or evenings as the community's needs require.
- Legally entitled to work in Canada.

Desirable

- An active Christian faith and sympathy with the mission and values of St. Laurence Anglican Church. Given the parish context, there will be natural opportunities to pray with families and lead simple moments of worship for those who welcome it; a candidate who is comfortable in this dimension of the role will be well placed to serve.

- Familiarity with the Tri-Cities community and its networks.
 - Experience in volunteer recruitment, coordination, and support.
 - Experience running or coordinating community groups, drop-in sessions, or family programmes.
 - Knowledge of local family support services, early years provision, or community resources in the Tri-Cities.
 - Training or experience in trauma-aware practice, mental health first aid, or neurodiversity-informed approaches, or a willingness to obtain equivalent training within the first year of appointment.
 - Confidence using digital communication tools and social media to support community engagement.
 - First aid certification (or willingness to obtain).
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Terms and Conditions

- Hours: 8-10 hours per week. The schedule will be shaped around community rhythms, with core hours to be agreed with the Rector.
 - Compensation: \$28 per hour, plus statutory entitlements (CPP, EI, vacation pay, WorkSafeBC).
 - Probation: A six-month probationary period applies.
 - Reviews: Regular check-ins with the Rector, a formal review at six months, and annual reviews thereafter.
 - Workspace: A workspace is available at the church. Given the nature of this role, a significant proportion of working hours will be spent in the community rather than at a desk.
 - Professional Development: Access to diocesan training opportunities and relevant community development networks.
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Combined Role Opportunity

This position focuses on community outreach, neighbourhood relationship-building, and the piloting of new initiatives for families. A companion role, Children's & Families Minister, is also being recruited to lead on pastoral care, faith formation, and worship with families connected to the parish. Each role is up to 10 hours per week.

For the right candidate with the breadth of skills and capacity, both roles could be combined into a single position of up to 20 hours per week, with the precise allocation to be agreed with the successful candidate. Please note that an active Christian faith is an essential requirement for the combined role, as faith formation and discipleship are integral to the Children's & Families Minister's responsibilities. If you are interested in applying for the combined scope, please indicate this in your covering letter.

How to Apply

Please send a covering letter and current CV/résumé to apply@saintlaurence.ca with 'Children and Families Outreach Worker application' in the subject line.

In your covering letter, please address the following:

1. What draws you to community outreach work with children and families, and what experience have you brought to similar roles?
2. How would you approach building relationships with families in the neighbourhood who have no existing connection to St. Laurence or to church life?
3. How do you approach the early stages of a new initiative: listening, researching, and discerning what a community actually needs?
4. What interests you about working within a church context, and how does that sit with your own background and values?

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and abilities, including 2SLGBTQI+ people, Indigenous peoples, racialised people, and people with disabilities. St. Laurence is an affirming community. Accommodations are available upon request for candidates participating in the selection process.

We will review applications as they are received and will continue to welcome applications until the position is filled. We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for an interview will be contacted.