

TADAALA



Teens &
Adults with
Disabilities
Advancing
Autonomy, Advocacy, and Awareness

Allowing adults with Developmental Disabilities and teenagers to learn from each other while working together.

The T.A.D.A.A. program is offered at L.A. GOAL, an agency that provides services for adults with Developmental Disabilities. This program gives YOU an opportunity to volunteer at L.A. GOAL, and complete your community service requirements.

You may participate with L.A. GOAL members in programs such as:

The Art/Sewing Program: Sewing, Preparing raw product, and Working with members on current art/sewing projects.

The Office Work Training Program: General office skills, Receptionist skills, Filing, Computer skills, and Mailing tasks.

Adult Education Classes: Spelling, Math, Telling time, Writing, Reading, Grooming, Money skills.

The Custodial Maintenance Program: Sweeping, Window cleaning, Gardening, Raking, Trash clean-up, Building paint touch-up, Laundry, Dusting, and Vacuuming.

The Poetry Program: Group sessions where members explore form, subject, metaphor, and expression through a poetic voice.

For more information, please contact Wyatt Kroopf
4911 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230
TADAALA@gmail.com
(310) 838-5274

Teens and **A**dults with **D**evelopmental Disabilities **A**dvancing
Advocacy **A**utonomy and **A**wareness

The T.A.D.A.A. program begins with individuals. It begins with teenagers who are willing to gain a greater understanding of people with Developmentally Disabilities. And it begins with the L.A. GOAL members with Developmental Disabilities such as autism, down syndrome (we like to call it “up syndrome”), cerebral palsy, and mental retardation (we like to call people who learn a little slower) who due to difficult high school experiences and public taunting are often fearful of teens. Although the T.A.D.A.A. program begins with individuals, in the end its mission is to create a united community.

Started in 2003 by two teens, T.A.D.A.A. draws from both private and public schools allowing for a broad spectrum of participants. The program has flexible guidelines and provides the opportunity for teens to work with L.A. GOAL members one on one, as well as in groups. Each volunteer is encouraged to utilize their individual talents to create a successful, as well as innovative experience for them and the members; and to form personal relationships. The sense of camaraderie and community that develops is often a completely new and positive experience for both the members and the teens.

The following programs are available to T.A.D.A.A. volunteers:

- Inside Out Productions, Art/Sewing Studio- One of our most thriving programs, which has been running for 15 years and has produced an enormous amount of incredible art. The skill level of so many of the artists takes teen volunteers, who participate in visual arts themselves, aback. Teens have an opportunity to sew, draw, or paint one-on-one with the members, often working with a member on one piece consistently for a week or two, or until completion.
- Office Work Training- This program gives members, from the most experienced to the least experienced, an opportunity to learn valuable office skills and work behaviors. It is also the most opportune program to just chat about movies, music, love, or sports, while working with members.
- Tutoring Program- L.A. GOAL puts out a quarterly publication, which contains articles written by members. Proper grammar and spelling skills are very important, so volunteers work one-on-one with a member, to write and revise their piece.
- Education Program- This summer an instructor from the Culver City School District will teach a fundamental academics class to nine members. T.A.D.A.A., in collaboration with this program, will expand on these classroom tasks, and work on assignments with members.
- Music Therapy Program- This program is therapeutic so teen collaboration is limited. Whenever possible each teen will be given permission by the members to participate in one music therapy session. The program is an incredible experience for anyone lucky enough to participate.

- Custodial/Maintenance Program- A lot of members love to work out doors so we have various jobs: trash clean-ups, raking leaves, painting furniture, and hopefully this summer, gardening. Teen volunteers have consistently come up with new ideas for this program, because there are countless skills that can be developed.
- Library Program- L.A. GOAL is located directly next door to the Culver City Public Library, so last summer we began taking groups of 5-10 members there to get library cards and to learn basic research skills and proper library etiquette. This has been a powerful tool for members: feeling more comfortable and acting appropriately in the library allows them to return on their own time and gives them a sense of autonomy.
- Poetry Program- T.A.D.A.A. will be running a poetry program during the summer. Poetry and verse have been present elements in many of the artists' paintings/sculptures. We hope to expand that effort, possibly producing a short publication.

Volunteer Requirements:

To ensure the T.A.D.A.A. program has dedicated volunteers, who are truly eager to become a part of the L.A. GOAL community there are requirements each teen must fulfill. They must commit to five hours a day, one day a week, for at least four weeks. However, most volunteers fall in love with the program and fulfill twice the requirement. T.A.D.A.A. will have a mandatory orientation at the beginning of the summer for both new and returning volunteers. This will include an introduction to all the programs, as well as a brainstorming session on how to improve each program. We are incredibly excited about this summer. We will have as many as 20 teen volunteers, which is more than three times as many as when we started. This summer will be collaborative and fun, but more importantly it will fulfill what we think defines Community Service: making a positive impact on another person's life, while having a profound impact made on your own.