



Technically-Skilled Volunteers Needed For Tetra

Tetra Society of North America is a now unique organization that recruits engineers, technicians and other skilled professionals to volunteer their time to design and build customized assistive devices for persons with disabilities. Tetra's volunteers develop solutions which can lead to greater independence and an enhanced quality of life for many individuals with disabilities. Our goal is to assist people of any age in overcoming the barriers in all aspects of their lives, from basic living needs to recreational activities. Therefore the products are designed and constructed with both the volunteers and clients working in close collaboration.

Since its inception in 1992, Tetra Society of North America developed 30 Chapters, throughout Canada and the United States and other chapters are in the process of being developed.

People in New York need Tetra's help for example; students with special needs require key guards for their computers to help them focus on individual keys when typing. Amir, who is quadriplegic and ventilator dependent, would like to start mouth painting. Robert has Multiple Sclerosis and needs a device to help him garden. The list of New Yorkers with disabilities that have such needs is long.

Our volunteer engineers have taken on projects as simple as modifying a conventional table knife, which would allow an individual with limited hand dexterity to butter his own bread to more technical projects like modifying a television remote to be controlled by a sip or puff into a pneumatic device, which in turn provided our client with a greater sense of independence. These are only two examples from the 4000 projects our 100's of highly skilled and motivated volunteers have successfully accomplished over the years.

Previous experience has shown that both the volunteer as well as the client benefit from this unique partnership. For Example, volunteers have an opportunity to develop their design skills using their imagination to come up with extremely unique, innovative and individualized ideas. Therefore, we are seeking to continue this mutually beneficial relationship by recruiting more skilled volunteers in any of the locations mentioned above.

Interested in putting your skills to the test? Taking on a challenging but extremely rewarding volunteer position? Call our New York City chapter coordinator, Eddy Ehrlich, at (718) 398 3133 or visit our website www.tetrasociety.org or call 1 877-688-8762 for further information.