

Volunteer Position Description: Sexual Assault Response Advocate

Title: Sexual Assault Response Advocate (SARA)

Purpose/Objective: Support and advocate for survivors of sexual violence by meeting their short- and long-term needs.

Description: When someone in Wake County experiences rape or sexual assault, they have the option of completing a forensic exam. They have a right to do this at their local emergency department, or they can come to InterAct's community-based forensic exam center, The Solace Center, located at 1012 Oberlin Rd.

Due to the invasive (and often triggering) nature of this type of exam, InterAct provides volunteer advocates to accompany survivors through this process. This is a crucial advocacy position that helps InterAct fulfill its mission of saving lives, rebuilding lives, and securing safer futures.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Must be at least 21 years old.
- Must have reliable transportation.
- Must have basic technological skills for our online shift sign-up system.
- Must be able to communicate empathy, compassion, and self-determination.
- Must have a grasp on the complexities of domestic and sexual violence and be able to refrain from any victim-blaming or shaming to which survivors are already vulnerable.
- Must have general cultural competence and humility – that is, be able to understand how various identities and intersections affect a survivor's experience, and respond appropriately.

Key Responsibilities:

- Sign up for at least four 12-hour shifts (8am-8pm and 8pm-8am) per month, including nights and weekends.
- Must be able to commit to the role for at least twelve months.
- Be available during those shifts to meet a survivor in as little as 30-60 minutes.
- Report to The Solace Center or local emergency departments to meet survivors, offer support, and share information about their options as survivors.
- *Please note: During COVID-19, SARAs are only reporting to The Solace Center.*

Training/Support Provided:

- Twenty-hour core volunteer training covering many in-depth topics: Domestic Violence 101, Sexual Violence 101, Legal Topics, Crisis Counseling, and more. At least 1-2 “Buddy” shifts where you shadow a current SARA.
- Attend 2 of 4 quarterly meetings to discuss best practices, legislative updates, case scenarios, etc.
- Per a mandate from the NC Council for Women, engage in 20 hours of continuing education each fiscal year (July 1-June 30). *Note: The initial 20 Hour Core Training covers this for the first fiscal year as a volunteer at InterAct. Ongoing supervision from staff, as needed or desired.*

Location and Hours:

- Twelve-hour on-call shifts (8am-8pm and 8pm-8am) can be completed anywhere local, as long as volunteers can be at The Solace Center or local emergency departments within 30-60 minutes of receiving a call.

Supervisory Staff:

- Lead Sexual Assault Case Manager
- Volunteer Coordinator