

Volunteer Position Description: Children's Advocate

Title: Children's Advocate

Purpose/Objective: Assist the Children's/Family Case Manager (CFCM) in providing childcare, facilitating children's support groups, and hosting family-friendly events.

Description: Children's Advocates (CAs) will assist in providing childcare while parents are in supportive groups, such as parenting classes. The CA will help encourage age-appropriate learning and socialization to ensure children acquire basic skills and concepts, such as communication, manners, sharing, etc. CAs will assist in maintaining a safe environment by monitoring children for health, behavioral, and emotional issues and reporting any concerns to the CFCM. CAs will co-lead age-specific, evidence-based support groups for children whose parents are participating in InterAct's domestic and sexual violence support groups. CAs will help the CFCM guide the children in improving their mental and emotional wellbeing, offer tools to maintain that wellbeing, and provide a sense of community and safety. Lastly, CAs will help the CFCM host family-friendly events and activities for the Pathways program. CAs provide crucial support to young people and families, thereby helping InterAct fulfill its mission of saving lives, rebuilding lives, and securing safer futures.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Must have reliable transportation.
- Must be vaccinated for COVID-19
- Must be able to use active listening skills to gain a better understanding of children's needs, both spoken and unspoken.
- Must be able to communicate clearly, compassionately, and in a nonjudgmental and age-appropriate manner with children.
- Must have a grasp on the complexities of domestic and sexual violence and how these forms of violence affect young people at various life stages.
- Must be able to refrain from any victim-blaming or shaming to which survivors are already vulnerable.
- Must be able to understand and address the specific needs of marginalized communities – that is, be able to understand how various identities and intersections affect a person's experience and respond appropriately.

Key Responsibilities:

- Must be able to commit to the role for at least 12 months.
- Must commit to two afternoon group sessions per month, along with other commitments as the CA's schedule permits.
- Provide empowerment-centered support and advocacy.
- Collaborate with staff to always provide appropriate support to children.
- Handle crises calmly and maturely.
- Be a team player with staff, interns, and fellow volunteers.
- Alert your supervisors when assistance or additional training is needed.

Training & Support:

- Twenty-hour core training covering many in-depth topics: Domestic Violence 101, Sexual Violence 101, Legal Topics, Crisis Counseling, and more.
- Quarterly volunteer meetings to discuss best practices, legislative updates, case scenarios, etc.
- Per a mandate from the NC Council for Women, CAs proactively engage in 20 hours of continuing education each fiscal year (July 1-June 30).
- Ongoing supervision from staff, as needed or desired.

Location and Hours: Volunteer shifts occur onsite. Hours will vary depending on individual scheduling needs.

Supervisory Staff:

- Children's/Family Case Manager
- Director of Support Services (Shelter)

- Volunteer and Donor Engagement Coordinator