

Updated: September 2025

# 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.

Because this type of exam can be invasive and often triggering, InterAct offers volunteer advocates to support survivors throughout the process. This vital advocacy role helps InterAct achieve its mission of saving lives, rebuilding lives, and ensuring 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 24-hour shifts (8 am-8 pm and 8 pm-8 am) 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.

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**Training/Support Provided:**

- 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). Twenty-hour core volunteer training covering many in-depth topics: Domestic Violence 101, Sexual Violence 101, Legal Topics, Crisis Counseling, and more.

**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:**

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

**Supervisory Staff:**

- Lead Sexual Assault Case Manager
- Volunteer Coordinator

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