



The Nord Center

Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare

For Immediate Release

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2014 Volunteer Training Begins in February for The Nord Center's Lorain County Rape Crisis Program

You can make a difference in the life of a sexual assault survivor. Lorain County Rape Crisis is sponsoring a Volunteer Training Program beginning Monday, February 3, 2014. Volunteers enable the Lorain County Rape Crisis program to provide essential services to survivors of sexual assault and to those who support them, on a 24-hour basis, at absolutely no cost. No prior training or experience is necessary – just a desire to help those in crisis.

Prospective volunteers must attend an extensive training program to prepare them for the demands of this position. The 40-hour training program runs every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from February 3 through February 22. Monday and Wednesday sessions are from 5 - 9 pm; Saturdays from 9 am-2 pm, with the final training session on Saturday, February 22 from 9 am – 3 pm. Training will take place at The Nord Center's 6140 South Broadway location.

Lorain County Rape Crisis is a Registered Training Program of the Ohio Advocate Network that ensures programs provide quality advocacy and supportive services to those victimized by crime through the establishment of uniform minimum standards for pre-service training and continued education. Lorain County Rape Crisis is a program of The Nord Center.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Outreach Advocate: Must have transportation to our Sexual Assault Care Unit to support the survivor, in person, through the nurse's interview and exam.

Hotline Advocate: When a phone call from a survivor is received after hours, by our 24-hour Nord Center Emergency Crisis Line, the advocate returns the call to the survivor and helps them through their crisis and supports them over the phone.

Community Outreach: Participate in health and wellness fairs throughout the year, and may also present Rape Crisis services presentations to businesses, schools and universities.

Staff Support: Help the Rape Crisis staff with administrative duties, special events, fundraisers, surveys and assistance with the preparation and organization of survivor materials.

Volunteer Requirements:

General requirements to become a volunteer are:

- Must be 18 years or older
- Attend a pre-volunteer screening interview
- Complete a criminal background check, drug test and fingerprinting
- Successfully complete our 40-hour training program
- A commitment to one or more shifts a month
- Hotline Volunteers need access to a phone during their shift
- Outreach Volunteers are required to have transportation during their shift
- Mandatory attendance at quarterly reviews and training meetings
- Maturity, dependability, sensitivity and a desire to help others
- Adherence to the policies and procedures of The Nord Center

Volunteer Training Includes:

- History of Sexual Assault / Abuse Services
- Statistics
- Definitions
- Confidentiality
- Hotline Procedures
- Crisis Intervention
- Communication Skills
- Working With Law Enforcement
- Legal Issues Pertinent to Sexual Assault
- Cultural Competency
- Sexual Assault in Special Populations
- Vicarious Trauma and Self Care

It is only through the dedication and strong commitment of our volunteers that we are able to serve so many people. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Heather MacLachlan at (440) 204-4287 or e-mail hmaclachlan@nordcenter.org.

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