



The Nord Center

Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare

**For Immediate Release**



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## **The Nord Center is seeking caring and compassionate individuals to become Sexual Assault Volunteer Advocates**

**August 17, 2017 / Lorain OH** – The Nord Center’s Sexual Assault Services (SAS) is currently accepting applications for volunteer advocates for the fall training session, which will take place at The Nord Center’s 6140 South Broadway location beginning Saturday, September 16.

A variety of volunteer opportunities are available, from serving as a victim advocate to community outreach. Volunteers play a vital role in providing essential services to those affected by sexual violence and to those who support them.

“Volunteers are an essential part of our team. We wouldn’t be able to provide all the services we do without them,” said Becky Opel, Director of Sexual Assault Services at The Nord Center.

No prior training or experience is necessary – just a desire to help those in crisis. All applicants will be screened and required to complete a 40-hour specialized training program. Bilingual/Spanish-speaking volunteers are in need to assist in outreach and advocacy to the Hispanic population.

The SAS Volunteer Advocate training 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 continuing education.

The Nord Center’s Sexual Assault Services provides counseling, advocacy and support to survivors of sexual assault to help them begin the healing process and navigate the legal system. Many clients are seen soon after the assault, while other wait days, weeks or even years to seek support. It is only through the dedication and commitment of our volunteers that we are able to serve so many.

To learn more about our training program and becoming a volunteer advocate, contact Maria D’Amico at (440) 204-4354 or e-mail [mdamico@nordcenter.org](mailto:mdamico@nordcenter.org). Visit us online at [www.nordcenter.org](http://www.nordcenter.org) for information on specific volunteer requirements and an overview of the training program.

*The Nord Center is a private, non-profit agency providing comprehensive behavioral and mental health services to children, adolescents and adults in the greater Lorain County area. Our services include outpatient counseling; sexual assault / rape crisis services; drug and alcohol addiction; dual diagnosis (substance abuse and mental illness); psychiatry and medication management; employment and vocational services; supportive housing as well as homelessness prevention. We also offer culturally-specific services to bilingual and African-American consumers. More information on The Nord Center can be found at [www.nordcenter.org](http://www.nordcenter.org).*

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