

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca



**ACCESS York &
Victim Assistance Center**

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers are vital to YWCA York's programs and to our clients. Domestic and sexual violence are enormous social problems affecting women, men, and countless numbers of children. With the help of volunteers, our programs are more effectively able to meet the needs of our clients.

We cannot do this work alone.

"Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help."

- Heather French Henry



Victim Advocate Training

Most volunteer opportunities with ACCESS York and the Victim Assistance Center require completion of our Advocate Training Program. The training consists of a 65-hour course that fulfills state standards for domestic violence and sexual assault victim advocacy. Victim Advocate training is extensive, interactive, and very thorough. This ensures that each volunteer is fully equipped with the information needed to effectively assist victims in traumatic and often life-threatening emergencies. While the commitment to undergo this training is substantial, the rewards are immeasurable—we cover topics such as impact of trauma, confidentiality, crisis & crisis intervention, cultural competency, oppression and privilege, advocacy principles, and working with outside systems.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Front Desk/Hotline Answer all calls and record in phone log. Handle hotline calls and assist in determining immediate need of clients and complete intake form for each client. Assist in client orientation to shelter. Answer doors and accept donations. Assist in maintaining a smoothly run reception area.

Educational Presenter Present educational programming to schools, preschools, and/or churches in York County. Provide support and guidance to victims if disclosures are made. Provide information and referral services to administration, staff and caretakers.

Legal Advocate Assistance Assist legal advocates in filing Protection from Abuse Orders. Sit in and provide support during client interviews. Accompany legal advocates and clients to court. Assist in filing client paperwork. Provide coverage during staff meetings and in-service trainings.

Child Advocate Assistant Assist children's advocates with specific children's activities. Interact with children in a group setting. Practice positive, non-violent ways of expressing feelings. Engage in a positive, non-violent manner.

Still Waters (Hanover) Assist with what identify a few needs at our Still Waters, The Jane Rice Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence, located in Hanover.

Awareness Month Event Planning Assist in planning for our Domestic Awareness Month events (October) and our Sexual Assault Awareness Month events (April).

Filing & Mailings/Miscellaneous
File confidential information from assigned office. Ensure all information is kept confidential.



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT VICTIM ADVOCATE TRAINING, PLEASE CONTACT COMMUNITY EDUCATION AT 717.845.2631.