

# exciting volunteer opportunities

to serve children, young people,  
and families as a part of **Safe Places**.



## VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATOR

If you love being with children!

Spend some time with children at day care centers, after school or summer programs, Boys and Girls Clubs. And while you're doing that, teach them about being safe in a violent world! This position includes presenting a one day a week program for children exposed to violence

for a commitment of eight weeks. Weekly sessions last from 30 minutes to an hour, depending on the age of the children. You may choose to work with preschoolers, school age children, or teens, and when you finish one eight-week program with a group of children, you may do another eight weeks with another group in another location. A half-day training must be completed before you start your program. All programs are written and easy to follow. We provide the program; you provide the love and the time to reach these at-risk children.



## OFFICE GREETER

*"Greetings all! Welcome, sit down, and make yourself at home!"*

If you are a born hostess, this job is for you. Come to Safe Places to answer phones, schedule appointments, and work with families when they come to Safe Places for counseling. After a brief orientation of our procedures of the protocol, you'll be ready to work in this position. And you would be a great help to us during staff meetings, vacations, or if someone needs a sick day. Can you be on call for our staff, and fill in when we need you? If so, this is the position for you.



## EVENT HOST

Let the fun begin!

If you like fund raisers, you can't beat this volunteer position! When we have a public relations/fundraising event, you would help with decorations, food, organizing, helping set up and taking down for the event, and a host of other jobs. You may also promote the event in the community, get donated items for auctions, or solicit corporate sponsors for the event.



## VICTIM ADVOCATE

Healing is a long, long journey with stones in the road.

Are you the kind of person that can take a journey toward healing with a person that has been deeply violated? If you are someone who can provide hope after an individual's life has been rearranged, then this is the place you can best serve. If you have a listening heart, then this is your place. If you can lift hope up high so that people in despair can see it, then we need you as a victim advocate. Victim advocates will work with adult victims of sexual abuse, domestic violence or other forms of violence. Sometimes you may work with an adult survivor of child abuse. Your work with a victim might include providing resource reading, getting them to a support group, listening to their story, making a phone contact, accompanying a victim to court – walking with them on a healing journey. If you can do this, we need you. This position requires a full day of advocate training, including pre-reading, and a few weeks of shadowing an experienced advocate.



## SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATOR

A safe place – just to talk it out, cry your tears, take back your life.

Of all the services we offer at Safe Places, support groups may be the most empowering of all. A support group facilitator has the unique opportunity of being with a group for twelve weeks and in that time, seeing the light of hope turn on in someone's dark spirit. You will have a sacred privilege of hearing stories from the depths of an individual's heart -those who have survived sexual abuse, domestic violence, the murder of a child, any number of tragedies. This job requires strength of heart, gentleness of spirit, and sometimes the ability to tell the truth even if it hurts. If you want to be in the place where hope is born and healing begins, you should consider being a support group facilitator. Support groups can be held at Safe Places, at an apartment clubhouse, at a church or synagogue – just about anywhere. This position requires a full day of training, including pre-reading, and three support group observations.



## FOR OUR LATINO CLIENTS

Our Latino clients need a friendly face and someone who understands.

Whether you want to lead a support group, make follow-up phone calls to clients, accompany a client to court, answer our crisis line, or just offer a listening ear, we need you. This position requires training from a full day to a half day depending on the position you want to fill



For those who just love to hear themselves talk.

We know that some people were born to be Toastmasters! If that's you, we'd love to have you as a community ambassador talking about our work at civic organizations, faith communities, corporations . . . anywhere that we might find people to support our mission and vision.



*"Victims of violence . . . suffer from a deeply felt crisis of faith, a sense of abandonment that raises the most crucial faith questions of life. The most qualified people to help them navigate the darkness of their victimization are people of faith."* - K. Findley

Our volunteer Interfaith Alliance Against Violence (IAAV) Coordinator has a unique opportunity to work with faith communities and clergy to increase the faith community's capacity to serve victims of violence and to engage congregations in violence prevention initiatives. This volunteer will work on an IAAV Newsletter, training projects for clergy and faith community leaders, and special emphases in faith communities to raise awareness of violence and victimization. If you are a person of faith and can communicate effectively with clergy and faith community leaders, we need you to help us build the Interfaith Alliance Against Violence – and most importantly, to bring faith leaders to the table with law enforcement, victim advocates, court personnel, etc. When our community wraps its collective arms around victims of violence, we want those arms to include the arms of faith communities. Faith communities most often believe deeply in hope, healing, faith, grace, second chances and new beginnings – exactly what our victims so desperately need.



Most important of all, we need a nice, clean place for our clients.

Like many nonprofit organizations, we cannot pay for cleaning services. Still, we have clients who deserve a clean facility when they come to us for help. Most importantly, we have children's groups and individual sessions, and children often sit on the floor for story time or toddlers who toddle around on the floor. If you are a great cleaner, we really need you once a week to keep Safe Places safe, **and clean!**




When your first reaction is: *"I don't do that volunteer stuff!"*

If you are a person who simply doesn't have the time to volunteer or doesn't enjoy it, you are still important to us. Perhaps making a tax-deductible contribution is the best way you can help us. Individuals who make monthly pledges of financial support are so important to our work. Those regular

contributions help us know what we can count on when we're working hard every month to make ends meet. Remember . . . our clients do not pay a single penny for any of our services, and keeping doors open and staff paid can be an enormous challenge. Our operating budget is a frugal one, and we make a little bit of funding go a very long way.

When you are looking for that special person's birthday or holiday gift, why not make a donation in their name? A donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone is a wonderful way to show them you care. We will send a recognition card to the person you designate, and your money will be used to help make **Safe Places** a place where children, young people, and families find safety, hope, and protection from violence and abuse.



Finally . . . Please know that our volunteers are the  heart of our work. We need each of you.

Our responsibility to children, young people and families who have been harmed is a responsibility that is impossible for us to bear alone. We need your help to meet the depth of human need our staff sees every day. We need your hands when ours are full. We need your eyes when tears blur our vision. We need your legs when ours have wearied on the journey. We need your arms when ours are heavy with labor. We need your heart of compassion when ours is too full to hear another story.

**Please consider your place of service with **Safe Places** and contact us right now to volunteer.**

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Please visit us at [www.SafePlacesLR.org](http://www.SafePlacesLR.org).

*Safe Places: The Center for Healing and Hope, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.*