



Volunteer Program Services Information

Surviving the Silence



Organizational History

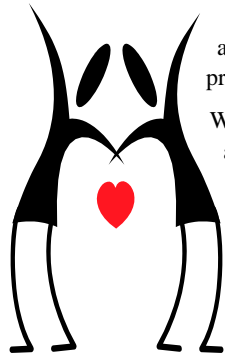
The Rape Crisis Center was founded in 1975 to provide comprehensive services to sexual assault survivors and their families and friends, and to conduct sexual violence education programs across Bexar County and surrounding areas.

The Rape Crisis Center ensures that the needs of rape victims in Bexar County are sensitively met. The Center advocates for the rights of rape victims to receive proper medical care, sensitive police response and vigorous prosecution of the perpetrator. The Center will make referrals for victims of sexual violence based on their individual needs.

The RCC offers a 24-hour Crisis Intervention Hotline, free individual and group counseling, accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies and follow-up case management to survivors of sexual violence. The Center is funded by the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County; the Texas Office of the Attorney General; Victims of Crime Act; Violence against Women Act; grant funding and private donations. The RCC also offers presentations to the community about sexual violence issues, such as date rape, rape awareness, risk reduction, sexual harassment, child abuse, healthy relationships, and bullying.



Volunteer Training



The Rape Crisis Center's volunteer advocates provide crisis intervention services to individuals, other agencies and professionals dealing with victims of sexual violence. Volunteers enable The Center to provide services to victims of sexual violence and their loved ones 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

With the increased number of sexual assaults being reported in Bexar County (3 per day), The Center always needs more volunteers. We welcome the participation of men as well as women in our program. Some of our advocates are themselves survivors of sexual violence, but not all. No prior experience or training is required— just a desire to help those in crisis. The Center welcomes mature applicants 18 years of age or older as office volunteers and RAINN online advocates and age 21 years or older as hospital advocates.

In order for our volunteers to be well informed and ready to meet the needs of our clients, The RCC has designed a 40-hour advocate-training course that includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and 10 hours of observation/continuing education. Additionally, meetings are held to keep volunteers and staff members up-to-date with new information and materials.

Our training program includes the following topics and issues:

- Sociological aspects of sexual assault and the history of rape.
- The physical, emotional, psychological and social effects of sexual assault on the victims, their families, and their friends.
- Crisis Intervention and Advocacy
- Medical and legal perspectives on sexual assault and procedural information—S.A.N.E. program information.
- Child sexual assault and disclosure issues.
- Date rape and date rape drugs.
- Domestic Violence issues.
- STD's and STI's and Pregnancy.
- CPS and APS issues and services.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Rape Crisis Center's volunteers provide the following services:

- **Hospital Advocates:** provide crisis intervention to victims of sexual violence at local hospitals, accompanying them to law enforcement agencies, and providing support during court appearances.
- **Outreach Volunteers:** participate in health and wellness fairs throughout the year and present RCC services presentations to universities, businesses and schools.
- **RAINN On-line Hotline Volunteers:** Work through RAINN (Rape Abuse Incest National Network) helping those survivors in a one on one confidential chat room setting—additional training is required through RAINN.
- **Office Volunteers:** assist with administrative office duties (answering the phone, filing, copying and document shredding) and special projects.
- **Special Event Volunteers:** Help the RCC during times when we hold special events and fundraisers (*Partners for Change, VDAY San Antonio, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, and fundraisers*).

How the Center Works

The Center operates with a minimum number of paid staff members. We have several departments within our Center including: Crisis Intervention; Counseling; Public Education; and Outreach Services.

The Rape Crisis Center's volunteers provide crucial services to our clients, families and friends. Requirements to become a volunteer are as follows:

- Office, Online Hotline and Outreach Volunteers must be 18 years or older.
- Advocate Volunteers must be 21 years of age or older.
- Commit to six months of service.
- Attend a screening interview.
- Complete a criminal background check.
- Possess the maturity, dependability, sensitivity and a desire to help people.
- Complete 32 hours of required live training.

Thank You!

Thank you for your interest in The Rape Crisis Center's volunteer programs. Our volunteers perform a vital service in Bexar County to the victims of sexual assault, their families, and their friends. It is only through volunteers who make a strong commitment to the program that we are able to serve so many people.

PLEASE NOTE: As of 01/01/2009 all volunteers will be charged a \$30 fee for training materials, which includes an "Intent of the Heart" book and asked to commit to 6 months of service. A reduced rate is available for those who are students and income sensitive.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please return the enclosed application form. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Please call 521-7273 x 5735 for further information or email drominski@rapecrisis.com .

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