



Volunteer Program & Services Information

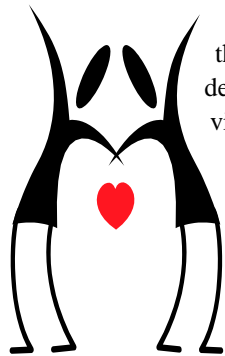
Organizational History

The Rape Crisis Center was founded in November of 1975 by a group of visionary leaders whose goal was to address the needs of victims of sexual violence, their families and the community at large. Today, The Center has grown into a full service agency, addressing prevention education, crisis intervention, counseling, case management, and outreach.

All of The Rape Crisis Centers services are free of charge. The Center offers a 24-hour Crisis Intervention Hotline in addition to an online hotline through RAINN (Rape Abuse and Incest National Network). The Center also provides hospital accompaniment and many types of counseling including, individual, play therapy, family, couples and group counseling. The case management department offers court accompaniment and resource referrals to survivors and their families. The Centers education department also provides the community with presentations about sexual violence issues, such as date rape, rape awareness, risk reduction, sexual harassment, child abuse, healthy relationships, and bullying.

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.

Volunteer Training



The Rape Crisis Center's volunteers are the heart of the organization. They graciously donate their time to 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 is required, only a desire to help those in crisis. The Center welcomes mature applicants 18 years of age or older as office volunteers, special event 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 Center has designed a 46-hour advocate-training course that includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and 16 hours of observation/continuing education. Additionally, meetings are held to keep volunteers and staff members up-to-date with new information and materials. Not all volunteer positions are required to attend all the training however, it is highly recommended.

Our training program includes the following topics and issues:

- Sexual Assault Laws, Myths and Misconceptions
- 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.
- Child Sexual Assault and Disclosure issues.
- Date Rape and Date Rape Drugs.
- Sexual Violence in the Media.
- STI's and Pregnancy.
- Self Care.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Rape Crisis Center's volunteers provide the following services (*training varies with each position and will cost \$20 for materials. Volunteers are also asked to commit to 6 months of service*):

- Hospital Advocates: provide crisis intervention to victims of sexual violence at local hospitals. This includes providing emotional support, legal information, accompaniment, and referral resources to survivors, family members and friends. Training: 46 hour training.
- Outreach Volunteers: participate in health and wellness fairs throughout the year and may also present RCC services presentations to universities, businesses and schools. Training: 10 hours of live training in addition to 1-2 health fair observations and 2 public speaking observations.
- RAINN On-line Hotline Volunteers: providing crisis intervention on-line through RAINN (Rape Abuse Incest National Network). Helping survivors in a one on one confidential chat room setting. Training: 30 hours of live training in addition to 5-7 hours of on-line training through RAINN.
- Office Volunteers: assist with administrative office duties (answering the phone, filing, copying and document shredding) and special projects. Training: 4 hours of live training in addition to any job specific training as needed.
- Special Event Volunteers: Help the RCC during times when we hold special events and fundraisers (*Ex: Partners for Change, VDAY San Antonio, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, Run 4 Hope...*). Training: No live training required however, you are expected to attend special event meetings as scheduled.

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; Case Management; Education; and Volunteer and Outreach Services.

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

- Office, Special Events, 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 all required training (varies with each position)

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.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please return the enclosed application form. I look forward to meeting and working with you! Please feel free to call (210) 208-5735 for further information or email me at ncastro@rapecrisis.com.

Nicole Castro, Volunteer Coordinator

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