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ourresilience.org

Position Title: Volunteer Medical Advocate

Reports to: Advocacy Volunteer Supervisor

Location: Onsite at [Resilience partner hospitals](#)

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Resilience is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the healing and empowerment of sexual assault survivors through nonjudgmental crisis intervention counseling, individual and group trauma therapy, and medical and legal advocacy in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Resilience provides public education and institutional advocacy in order to improve the treatment of sexual assault survivors and to effect positive change in policies and public attitudes toward sexual assault. Established in 1974, Resilience serves over 2,000 survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones annually. Resilience has a main office in downtown Chicago, a community-based office in Austin, and several co-locations within partner organizations across the city.

GENERAL ROLE DESCRIPTION

Volunteer Medical Advocates provide crisis intervention counseling, nonjudgmental support, and medical and legal advocacy to survivors of sexual violence and their significant others (family, friends, partners, etc.). Advocates also provide referrals and information, as well as brief telephone follow-up with survivors.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Advocates are required to complete Resilience's 60-hour certification training, including class participation, group role plays, and quizzes. Advocates are also required to attend a minimum of six hours of continuing education sessions, two of which are child-specific trainings, as scheduled throughout the year. External trainings that fit the necessary criteria may also be accepted, upon approval from the Advocacy Volunteer Supervisor.
- With the survivor's permission, Advocates are expected to remain with the survivor throughout the medical examination, evidence collection, and police interviews.
- Advocates will sign an agreement stating their commitment to taking at least 24 on-call shifts (a minimum of two shifts per month for one year). Each shift runs from 7am-7pm or 7pm-7am. Volunteer Advocates will schedule their own shifts according to their availability.

QUALIFICATIONS

Advocates must demonstrate a nonjudgmental, supportive attitude toward survivors of sexual violence. Strong interpersonal/communication skills and a focus on empathy are essential. It is expected that Advocates also be committed to the philosophy of our organization: anti-violence, anti-oppression, and the empowerment all survivors of sexual violence.

ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Exceptional executive functioning skills and emotional intelligence
- Adaptability, conscientiousness, and reliability
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to give and receive honest, constructive feedback
- Ability to take initiative and work independently, as well as in a team environment that includes cross-department coordination
- Passion for Resilience's mission required; understanding of and/or experience working with sexual assault, women's issues, and human rights issues preferred
- Completion of a minimum 40-hours of sexual assault training within 90 days of hire

HYBRID WORK ENVIRONMENT

Training and supervision will be offered virtually in this role, but advocacy services will be provided in person at any of our partner hospitals throughout Chicago.

BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS

Because of the nature of our funding, all staff, interns, and volunteers are required to clear a criminal background check, free of convictions related to 1) any sex offense, and 2) any offense in which the victim is, by statute, a youth, including but not limited to, child abuse and child endangerment.

Additional background checks vary by position and are required for work with Chicago Public Schools, Cook County Health and Hospitals System, and for work with survivors who are incarcerated. Those who do not pass these requirements are not eligible for employment.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PHYSICAL

- In your volunteer application, you will be required to provide proof of your COVID-19 vaccination. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Advocacy Volunteer Supervisor at volunteer@ourresilience.org.
- Possible exposure to vicarious trauma
- Potential for exposure to environmental and/or psychological hazards on or offsite at select partner locations
- Physical requirements may include (extended or periodic) walking, bending, reaching, sitting, and lifting

Persons of color and LGBTQ+ persons are encouraged to apply. Resilience is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in its procedures and policies.

For more information or to apply, please visit: ourresilience.org/get-involved/volunteer/. Questions can be emailed to volunteer@ourresilience.org.