

Do you enjoy spending time with children? Is playing with kids, engaging in both free play as well as planned themed activities like making slime and building marble tracks, your kind of fun? If playing tag, red light-green light, and pushing swings is your thing, then volunteering as a DAIS Children's Advocate is the way to go. Helping children thrive, one evening at a time. DAIS is seeking caring volunteers who can provide a structured, safe, and fun environment for the children who are staying in the DAIS shelter or receiving other DAIS services. Children's Advocate Volunteers play a vital role in advancing DAIS' mission and supporting our children's programming. By consistently sharing their time and creativity, advocates help ensure children are cared for in a safe, engaging environment while their parents address important steps toward family safety.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Children's Advocates provide children affected by domestic abuse with opportunities to engage in positive activities in a safe and structured environment. Children's Advocates work with children of various ages, ability levels, and backgrounds who are either current residents of our shelter or whose parents are utilizing other DAIS services. Children's Advocates must adhere to strict confidentiality, PCYA program procedures, volunteer procedures, and the agency's Code of Ethics.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist in planning and facilitating age-appropriate group activities for children and youth.
- Consistently report for and arrive on time for assigned shifts. Notify the PCYA Program Coordinator of any need to be absent and attempt to find a coverage replacement (if available).
- Immediately report suspected or actual physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse of any child to DAIS staff on duty.
- Be responsible for the safety of the children in your care. Take the appropriate first steps in an emergency.
- Model non-violent conflict resolution and use non-violent forms of guidance and discipline.
- Be responsible for maintaining the order and cleanliness of spaces used for PCYA programming.
- Complete all paperwork as required.

- Communicate with the PCYA Program Coordinator on a regular basis regarding your experience at DAIS, programming, etc.
- Be sensitive to your own emotional needs and do what is necessary to take care of yourself.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries with DAIS clients and their children.
- Do not arrive for your shift under the influence or in possession of alcohol and/or illegal drugs or use these substances while on DAIS premises.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

DAIS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES:

- Train volunteers in the skills necessary to effectively perform responsibilities in the PCYA Program.
- Provide ongoing training and information.
- Be available for consultation and support.
- Provide reference letters and/or documentation of volunteer hours for employment and education purposes. Letters will be written based on the PCYA Program Coordinator's knowledge of the volunteer's service and any documentation maintained in their volunteer file.
- Make reasonable accommodations for volunteers with disabilities who would like to volunteer as a Children's Advocate.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must demonstrate informed sensitivity to the issues and experiences of domestic abuse victims and their children and must demonstrate an ability to respond effectively to people in crisis.
- Must demonstrate experience working with diverse populations.
- Must be able to adequately care for and supervise children of all ages.
- Must successfully undergo a comprehensive background check that includes fingerprint requirements to ensure the safety of children.
- Bilingual candidates are encouraged to apply.

TIME COMMITMENT:

Children's Advocates must be able to work at least one shift per week for a minimum of a year. Shifts are available during weekdays, weeknights, and on weekends and are generally 1.5 to 2 hours long.

TRAINING:

- 26-hour New Advocate Training (NAT).
- Additional Child and Youth Advocate program training is required.
- Observation shift(s) required.