

If you enjoy cooking for others and bringing people together over a shared meal, the Shelter Cook volunteer role may be a great fit for you! Shelter cooks share their love of cooking by preparing nutritious, delicious, home-cooked dinners for our shelter community. Shelter Cooks prepare meals on-site within the shelter kitchen. Providing a meal gives DAIS clients a welcome break from daily responsibilities and creates an opportunity to gather, connect, and enjoy time together in a supportive environment. No professional cooking experience is required – just basic kitchen skills, a positive attitude, and a desire to be part of a team that makes a meaningful difference one meal at a time.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Shelter Cooks work together to plan and prepare meals in our shelter kitchen. Cooks serve dinner to DAIS clients and families and also help with clean-up to ensure the space remains welcoming and ready for client use. Shelter Cooks must adhere to strict client confidentiality expectations, shelter procedures, and DAIS policies, as well as the agency's Code of Ethics. Shelter Cooks must maintain professional boundaries with all shelter residents.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist with preparing and providing dinner to victims of domestic abuse and their children on site in the DAIS shelter kitchen.
- Assist with performing routine chores and cleaning tasks during and after dinner.
- Work with a team of cook volunteers to discuss recipe ideas, create menus and plan monthly meals.
- Interact with the residents and children in the shelter and allow residents to interact and engage in the cooking when interest is shown.
- Model and promote respectful communication and positive interactions between adults and children in shelter. Model non-violent conflict resolution and use non-violent forms of guidance.
- Maintain appropriate and professional boundaries with DAIS clients and their children.
- Arrive to your shift mentally and physically prepared; being under the influence of or in possession of alcohol and/or illegal drugs is not permitted while at DAIS.
- Adhere to agency policies and work rules including confidentiality, child abuse reporting, code of ethics; if questions arise, seek support and clarification from DAIS Advocates.
- Communicate with the Volunteer Manager on a regular basis by email or in person. Report on how shifts are going and if any problems arise. Share

- suggestions for improvements on service delivery or on the care and retention of volunteers and staff.
- Perform other duties as assigned.
 - Be sensitive to your emotional needs and take steps necessary to take care of yourself.
 - Attend New Advocate Training, Shelter Cook program training, and observation shifts.

DAIS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO SHELTER COOKS:

- Train advocates in the skills necessary to effectively cover the responsibilities of the Shelter Cook volunteer role.
- Provide ongoing training and information.
- Be available for consultation and support.
- Provide documentation of volunteer hours for employment and education purposes.
- Provide reference letters as requested after six months of volunteer service (if applicable). Letters will be based on the Volunteer Manager's knowledge and experience of the volunteers' work and documentation maintained in the volunteer's file.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must demonstrate informed sensitivity to the issues and experiences of victims of domestic abuse and intimate partner violence and their children.
- Possess an ability to provide a supportive, nonjudgmental presence and respond appropriately and effectively to individuals in crisis.
- An ability to maintain strict confidentiality.
- An ability to work effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences.
- Possess strong interpersonal and verbal communication skills.
- Must successfully undergo a comprehensive criminal history background check that includes fingerprint requirements.
- Bilingual individuals are encouraged to apply.

TIME COMMITMENT:

- Shelter Cooks must be able to work one shift per week on a Tuesday or Thursday from 4:30pm-7:30pm.

TRAINING:

- 26-hour New Advocate Training (NAT) is required.
- Additional Shelter Cook program training is required.
- Two (2) shelter cook volunteer observation shifts required.