

Volunteer Update

Community Crisis Center

February, 2022

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

~Oscar Wilde

Community Crisis Center

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Greetings, CCC Volunteers!

As you may have seen on the Community Crisis Center Facebook page, February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Throughout the month, CCC will feature information on teen dating violence. Annual estimates from the CDC and the OVC indicate that somewhere between 10% to 25% of teenagers—male and female—experience dating violence. If you have teenagers in your life, Allstate Foundation and Love is Respect published a great parent discussion guide at <https://bit.ly/3LLwNVG>.

On the volunteer front, we are starting to open up a few more volunteer opportunities as we evolve our service offerings during this phase of the pandemic. Even as the State of Illinois is expected to ease COVID-19 protection requirements, CCC will continue to adhere to COVID mitigations as required of congregant living facilities—including universal masking in the building and continued social distancing. That said, we will continue to look for ways to increase volunteer engagement while supporting our staff and their work with survivors of crisis.



And finally—long-time volunteers will remember that March is typically the month of our largest fundraiser of the year. While we had hoped to be on a better pandemic footing in March of this year, we have opted to postpone this event just a few more months. We are so looking forward to gathering on July 9th, 2022 for our first Gala and Silent Auction since 2019! Please stay tuned for more details—including plenty of volunteer opportunities—coming soon!

Please stay safe and healthy!

Melissa Owens

COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER, INC MISSION:

We provide **Safety, Hope, Advocacy, Respite** and **Education** for those impacted by crisis and violence in the Fox Valley Region and Illinois.



Volunteer Needs

Volunteer Hospital Advocates

Domestic violence and sexual assault hospital advocacy is one of the most impactful ways in which volunteers can serve our community. Volunteer advocates assist us in our response to DV and SA survivors at Advocate Sherman and Amita Health St. Joseph Hospitals in Elgin and Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital in Geneva. After completing 60 hours of training, volunteers commit to on-call shifts where they will advocate with medical staff on behalf of a survivor (with the survivor's consent), provide emotional support for the survivor, and offer guidance for ongoing trauma care, counseling, and legal advocacy. Volunteer advocates are supported throughout the year with training opportunities, individual case debriefing, and group case supervision.



Interested volunteers are welcome to attend a portion of our bi-monthly advocate meetings or to meet one-on-one with staff members to discuss the program. If you have an interest in exploring our hospital advocate program and would like to receive notifications about upcoming trainings and advocate meetings, please contact Melissa Owens at mowens@crisiscenter.org. We would love to explore this incredibly important and rewarding volunteer program with you!

♥ thank you volunteers ♥

Donation Management and Food Pantry Assistants

Economic crisis support is an integral part of our mission to provide Safety, Hope, Advocacy, Respite, and Education to those impacted by crisis and violence in the community. Each day we provide local residents meals, diapers, and toiletries from our emergency food pantry. In 2021, more than 600 households received this type of assistance.

We are in need of volunteers to assist us with maintaining our pantry distribution program. These volunteer activities are of great help to our case managers and allow them to quickly assist individuals with their needs. Tasks may include donation sorting and organization; movement of items between floors, and stocking of our emergency pantry. Advance training is not necessary; we will happily train you while we work! Visit our online volunteer portal at <https://communitycrisiscenter.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/> for Pantry Helping Hands shift openings—new volunteer shifts are added regularly.



Support the Community Crisis Center by ordering your spring plants through our online portal! Choose from annuals, perennials, herbs, and baskets—all nursery quality, and all marked for either sun or shade. Pick-up day is **Friday, May 6th at the Crisis Center**. Orders must be placed by March 1st; visit <https://go.wreathsaleapp.com/ccplanters2022/Campaign/Details> to place your order.

Hope for the Holidays Wrap-up

Thank you so much to all of our Hope for the Holidays volunteers! All told, nearly 100 volunteers served more than 800 families with multiple toys, books, and pajamas for each child in the house.

Together, we logged more than 625 hours! There is no way we could pull this program off without volunteer support—and we are deeply grateful for your commitment during the holidays. We hope to see you again next year!



Volunteer Spotlight!

Meet Jody and Sue, two of our food donation volunteers! At least once a week, Jody and Sue come in and help manage food donations or deliveries of food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, benefiting our residents and walk-in clients. Having a well-organized food storage area means we can be much more efficient with our food use, and that our case managers can find needed items quickly. Thank you, Jody and Sue, for your dedicated work!

Are you a volunteer interested in doing similar work? Check out the donation management volunteer need on page 3!

Thank you!

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers who have worked so hard to make the last few months special for our residents. From Thanksgiving pies to holiday care packages to Valentine's Day flowers (pictured below!), please know that your efforts are so very much appreciated by the women and children in shelter. We are so grateful to have such a caring community—thank you!



Mark Your Calendar!

February 2022 New Volunteer Orientation

Tuesday, February 22nd at 7:00 pm

Plants for Peace Orders Due

Tuesday, March 1st by Midnight

Visit <https://www.crisiscenter.org/events.html> to order!



Full Moon Bike Ride for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Saturday, April 16th, 9:00pm

Begins at 119 S Grove, Elgin, IL

In collaboration with Elgin

Community Bikes, please join us for a casual, 8-mile moonlight ride through

Elgin. Be sure to be lit and visible! More information on full moon rides can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/elgincommunitybikes>.



Gretchen S. Vapnar
Community always hope
CRISIS CENTER

34th Benefit Auction SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, July 9th, 2022
The Q Center, St. Charles
Silent Auction & Open Bar
begins at 5:30 pm.

Dinner at 6:30
Live Auction
Hundred of items for bid!
Live Entertainment!

Thank you to our Sponsors
Harry and Debbie Seigle
K.R. Miller Contractors, Inc.

Trickster Cultural Center &
the Long Red Line: One Billion Rising/Elgin presents

The Long Red Line

Open for Viewing

February 11th-February 26th



Pop-up Exhibition

This exhibition will focus on
the 10th Anniversary of the
One Billion Rising: The Long Red Line.

