

## Position Title: Volunteer Violence Prevention Educator

### 6 Speciality Tracks and Descriptions:

\*please select one.

#### **Health-Oriented**

Volunteers who select this track will provide 60-90 minute presentations to health-oriented organizations such as Women's Clinics, Veterinarian Clinics, Dental Clinics, Hospitals, and Mental Health Clinics. Volunteers will be trained on how to lead presentations that discuss: statistics and prevalence of DV, definition of DV, different forms of DV, warning signs, universal screening options (e.g. danger assessment, Futures without Violence Cards), intervention methods/ways to help a patient (e.g. safety planning), and resources available in the community. Health professionals often become first-responders to those who have or are currently experiencing domestic violence and it is important for them to not only know how to identify warning signs, but also how to safely connect individuals with resources and support.

#### **Corporate/Businesses/HR departments**

Volunteers who select this track will provide 60-90 minute presentations to corporate/business organizations or HR departments. Domestic violence is not an issue that "stays in the home", it often physically follows survivors to work which can have negative implications on workplace safety, productivity, and well-being. Financial abuse is a very common control tactic and unemployment is often the leading cause of homelessness and the inability to escape an abusive situation. Workplaces can play a vital role in supporting their employees who may be experiencing domestic violence. Volunteers will be trained on how to lead presentations that discuss: statistics and prevalence of DV, definition of DV, different forms of DV, workplace specific warning signs, ways to help an employee/workplace safety measures (e.g. how to initiate a concerned conversation, displaying crisis numbers in public areas, informing employees of DV protocol during on-boarding), and resources available in the community.

#### **Customer service-based organizations**

Volunteers who select this track will provide 60-90 minute presentations to customer facing organizations such as restaurants, hair salons/barber shops, spas. **Workers** who provide services for customers, often build strong and trusting relationships with their clients. Individuals in these roles may be confided in or observe concerning behaviors. It is important that these workers are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resources to create pathways of safety for domestic violence survivors. Volunteers will be trained on how to lead presentations that discuss: statistics and prevalence of DV, definition of DV, different forms of DV, customer specific warning signs, ways to help a client/customer/ safety measures (e.g. how to initiate a concerned conversation, displaying crisis numbers in public areas), and resources available in the community.

#### **Schools**

Volunteers who select this track will provide 90-minute hybrid presentations to middle schools, high schools, colleges, and student groups. This is our main effort for primary prevention- stopping violence before it starts. Since abuse is a learned behavior, getting to students at a young age to potentially help them unlearn unhealthy lessons about relationships and re-learn healthy lessons can be essential to eradicating domestic violence. Volunteers will be trained on how to lead presentations that discuss: the

definitions of dating and digital violence, who it affects, different ways it is displayed, 8 different warning signs of an unhealthy/abusive relationship, components of a healthy relationship, bystander intervention, safety planning, and helpful resources in the community.

### **Housing**

Volunteers who select this track will provide 90-minute presentations to property owners, housing advocates, and workers who go into the home (e.g. cleaners). 1 in 3 homeless women in Minnesota are fleeing domestic violence. It is essential that people who work in a housing context are able to recognize warning signs of domestic violence, implement best practices in their work to not further perpetuate violence, and be able to connect tenants/clients with safety resources. Volunteers will be trained on how to lead presentations that discuss: the interconnectedness of domestic violence and housing instability, statistics and prevalence of DV, definition of DV, different forms of DV, housing specific warning signs, ways to help a tenant/client and housing safety measures (e.g. how to initiate a concerned conversation, displaying crisis numbers in public areas, informing tenants of resources when welcoming them to their unit, providing additional safety measures), and resources available in the community. The hopes of these presentations are to reduce domestic violence related evictions, create safer communities for all, and create pathways to safety for survivors of domestic violence so they are not having to choose between being abused and being homeless.

### **Criminal Justice Oriented**

Volunteers who select this track will provide 90-minute presentations to law enforcement, department of correction workers, and legal advocates. Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime. 75% of women in prison are domestic violence survivors. It is essential that people who work within the criminal justice system in various capacities are able to recognize warning signs of domestic violence, have a deeper understanding of how domestic violence relates to criminality, implement best practices in their work to not further perpetuate violence or criminalization of survivorhood, and be able to connect both survivors and perpetrators with community resources. Volunteers will be trained on how to lead presentations that discuss: the interconnectedness of domestic violence and the criminal justice system, statistics and prevalence of DV, definition of DV, different forms of DV, criminal justice specific warning signs (lethality factors), ways to help a survivor and legal safety measures (e.g. how to conduct a trauma informed conversation,, displaying crisis numbers in public areas, knowing alternate options for safety outside of protective orders), and resources available in the community (e.g. Safe at Home Program). The hopes of these presentations are to reduce the amount of re-traumatization in the criminal justice system, create safer communities for all, and improve systemic responses to domestic violence.