

Why volunteer at RCIS?

We are looking for compassionate and communicative individuals who will be specially trained in working directly with our clients. STAR Volunteers are often essential in a victim's recovery after an assault. Volunteering with RCIS offers many benefits:

- ◆ Gain experience working with victims and families affected by sexual violence
- ◆ Actively participate in the victim's recovery
- ◆ Attend presentations and workshops by community professionals
- ◆ Specialized training
- ◆ Support social change to end sexual violence
- ◆ Meet new people
- ◆ Acquire and develop counseling skills

Confidentiality Statement

All Rape Crisis employees and volunteers are bound by confidentiality within the agency, with the following exceptions:

- ◆ threat of harm to self or others
- ◆ child abuse (past or present)
- ◆ abuse of vulnerable adult (i.e. elder abuse)



Community Awareness

Other volunteer opportunities are available. Volunteers staff information booths at community events, assist with fundraising activities and occasionally volunteer in the office.

RCIS Mission Statement:

No one has the right, under any circumstances, to rape or sexually assault another person. Survivors of sexual violence deserve all the support possible to aid in their recovery. RCIS provides quality treatment to survivors and their families, ever seeking to improve our expertise and services. An equal part of our energy, resources and personnel will be devoted to creating a community awareness and energy that will actively work toward the elimination of sexual violence in all forms.

**For more information, contact
the RCIS
Hotline Services Coordinator at
410-857-0900.**



Rape Crisis Intervention Service of Carroll County

224 N. Center Street, P.O. Box 1563

Westminster, MD 21158

Office: 410-857-0900

24-hour Hotline: 410-857-7322

www.rapecrisiscc.org



*Rape Crisis Intervention
Service Of Carroll County*



Sexual Trauma
Advocate & Resource

Volunteer
Program

Serving Carroll County Since 1978

STAR Volunteers

Sexual Trauma Advocate & Resource (STAR) Volunteers are specially trained crisis counselors who respond to the needs of sexual assault victims and their families. Much of this response is done by telephone; however, sometimes volunteers accompany a victim at the hospital.

The STAR Volunteer's purpose is to support the victim, their families and friends in their time of need. That support may be a listening ear, a resource for information, and/or education on the recovery process.

Volunteer Qualifications

STAR Volunteers must:

- ◆ be 21 years of age or older
- ◆ successfully pass a criminal background check
- ◆ successfully complete the initial 8-hour Sexual Trauma Advocate & Resource (STAR) training provided by Rape Crisis Intervention Service (RCIS) as well as attending continued training opportunities periodically each year.
- ◆ reside within one hour of the Carroll Hospital Center
- ◆ have access to reliable and immediate transportation and phone
- ◆ be dependable! STAR Volunteers are responsible for direct client contact and responding to the Rape Crisis hotline
- ◆ be available by phone and respond to hotline calls and accompaniments when scheduled for duty
- ◆ agree to abstain from drugs and alcohol while on call

Required Training

Volunteers must complete the 8 hour STAR course for certification and successfully complete a clinical assessment by an Agency Therapist before having contact with clients or staffing the hotline. A written and oral examination conclude the certification process.

Each volunteer is also required to complete 6 hours of additional training each calendar year. These trainings will be offered throughout the calendar year by RCIS and other training opportunities will be available outside RCIS.

Staffing the Hotline

RCIS provides Carroll County with a 24-hour rape crisis hotline. Volunteers are expected to staff the hotline by responding to calls from the answering service. Volunteer shift coverage includes week nights and weekends.

Safety is important to us. No volunteer is ever asked to do anything they feel is unsafe. Volunteers meet with clients at the hospital, police barracks or at the office. For safety and privacy reasons, we do not provide transportation or personal phone numbers to our clients.

Can I volunteer if I am a survivor of sexual assault?

Some of our volunteers are survivors of sexual assault. If you are a survivor of sexual assault and have worked through the trauma, your experience could be valuable as a STAR Volunteer.



When are STAR Meetings Held?

Volunteer meetings are held monthly and attendance is a priority. At these meetings volunteers receive continued education and sign up for hotline shifts.

What kind of contact and support can I expect from the staff?

Volunteers will have contact information to reach staff and experienced volunteers while on duty. Volunteers have the opportunity to receive additional information and support by contacting the office after a shift. Agency Therapists and other staff are available for de-briefing after cases. Volunteer meetings are also a key opportunity to receive support and feedback from staff.

What kind of time commitment can I expect?

Volunteers are asked for a one-year commitment to RCIS with a total of 80 volunteer on call hours expected each year. A hospital visit may take up to three hours, while a phone call may take only a few minutes.

How do I apply?

Interested persons should contact the Hotline Services Coordinator at 410-857-0900. Prospective volunteers must submit an application, provide two references, and complete an initial interview with the Hotline Services Coordinator. Sometimes, clearance by an Agency Therapist is required prior to entering training.