Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Crisis Center. We offer a variety of direct and indirect service volunteer opportunities. Whatever your interest, please keep in mind that before you’re able to volunteer with us, we ask that you:

- complete the volunteer application;
- interview with the Volunteer Coordinator;
- attend the general volunteer orientation;
- pass background and reference checks; and
- participate in additional training, as needed.

Crisis Center Indirect Service Volunteer Opportunities

Community Outreach
Community outreach volunteers contribute their time and talents to further develop human, material and financial resources for the Crisis Center. Possible volunteer opportunities include: distributing information at community events and health fairs; helping with food and supply drives; and marketing and networking assistance.

Special Events
Special event volunteers contribute their time and talents to further develop human, material and financial resources of the Crisis Center. Possible opportunities include: chairing or working on an event committee for one of our two annual fundraising events; assisting with set up, management and clean up of special events; collecting silent auction donation items; and special holiday projects.

Administrative
Administrative volunteers work in our administrative office. They assist the administrative assistant by answering the door, answering the telephones, performing light clerical and other duties as assigned. They may assist with sorting, moving and stacking of donations, and light housekeeping as needed.

Special Projects
Special project volunteers are individuals and groups who volunteer for hands-on projects such as landscaping and maintenance, organizing the donation room, cleaning toys, wrapping presents, etc. This may be at the administrative office/out client therapy center or at the confidential shelter. It is preferred that at least one member of a group attend the 3 hour orientation, and group members must be 15 years or older to be at the shelter. Volunteers also may assist with technical support. Please watch the volunteer newsletter for these opportunities.

Meal Support
Meal support volunteers are individuals and groups who provide a meal or treat for client support group meetings, or for clients and children in shelter. If the volunteer/group has not attended orientation and trainings, they will be asked to meet staff at a neutral location to deliver the food.
Crisis Center Direct Service Volunteer Opportunities

In addition to the requirements listed above, volunteers interested in working directly with our clients must:

- be at least 18 years of age;
- attend the direct service training;
- complete 7-10 hours of hands-on training at the shelter;
- attend volunteer education/support meetings; and
- commit to one year of service to the Crisis Center.

Volunteers can participate in the following opportunities upon completion of these requirements:

**Childcare Services**
Childcare services volunteers provide childcare to infants, toddlers, preschool and school age children in our shelter and at our administrative offices. Volunteers may be responsible for both scheduled and on-call childcare shifts during support group meetings, house meetings, just plain fun time, or as needed by staff. Childcare is also needed once a month for 2 hours off-site for our Transition Group meetings.

**Activities Leader**
Activity leader volunteers work at our shelter allowing the residents to build community, learn a new skill, or just have a relaxing fun time. Volunteers are responsible for facilitating activity groups the agency sponsors on a weekly or monthly basis for those residing in the shelter. Activities may include such things as craft classes, exercise, movie nights, cooking.

**Residential Services**
Residential service volunteers work in our emergency shelter to provide support for resident families and staff. Volunteers are responsible for assisting staff with day-to-day activities in the shelter. These tasks include but are not limited to preparing rooms for new shelter residents, updating resource manuals, organizing and maintaining storage areas, assisting with housekeeping tasks, yard work and maintenance projects.

**Phone Support**
Phone support volunteers assist staff at shelter by answering the Crisis Line. These volunteers do initial screening of incoming calls. If the caller is seeking shelter the volunteer will ask for some basic information, then pass the call on to a staff member. Volunteers may also give referrals to other resources and agencies for non-crisis calls.

**Legal Support**
Legal support volunteers meet the legal advocates at the Douglas County Justice Center and provide emotional support to clients in the time surrounding their court cases, freeing up the legal advocates to work with other clients. No law experience is needed, as this is a support role only. Volunteers are notified a week or two in advance of upcoming cases and will “sign up” for shifts as needed.