

MACOMB COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER, INC./CARE HOUSE

Family Support Volunteer or Intern Position

Macomb County Child Advocacy Center/Care House has many meaningful opportunities for undergraduate and graduate interns to join the Care House Team and gain valuable skills in assisting child victims of abuse and their families at our Mount Clemens and Warren locations.

The mission of Care House is “To prevent and reduce the incidence and trauma of child sexual and physical abuse in Macomb County through collaborative, multidisciplinary, and effective family-centered activities.”

Position requirements and information for all volunteers and interns: Must be 18 years of age or older (with some exceptions for supervised school groups) and successfully complete the volunteer application, criminal background checks, reference checks, volunteer interview, agency orientation, and agency provided training. We request that volunteers commit to at least six months of service and interns commit to at least one semester. Travel may be required for trainings, tours, and community meetings.

Family Support volunteers/interns must have experience working with children (some education and training in child/family development is preferred). Hours are flexible; but should be able to commit to a minimum of 8 hours per week. This position does not offer the opportunity for supervisory experience. Family Support volunteers/interns must display the following qualities and skills: emotional maturity and stability, professionalism, empathy, confidentiality, strong personal boundaries, patience, flexibility, good self-care, and the ability to work well within a multi-disciplinary team.

The duties for this position **MAY** include, but are not limited to:

- Welcoming families to Care House and providing a snack and juice to children and offering water or coffee to adults
- Introducing yourself and your role, “Hi my name is _____, and it’s my job to sit with families”
- Interacting with child/children while parent is talking with the interviewer prior to the interview as well as after the interview
- Talking about the ‘no cell phone’ policy (older kids usually) and letting them know that cell phones are not allowed in the interview room
- Providing support to families while child is being interviewed

- Listening to concerns and answering questions about Care House, providing basic resources, and engaging in conversation with families to decrease their anxiety or worries while their child is being interviewed
- Immediately after the child comes out of the interview room, allow the child and parent/guardian to have interaction without unnecessary interruptions
- If the parent is obviously asking inappropriate questions about ‘what was said in the interview’, or if the parent is noticeably causing more anxiety for the child, then it’s your role to redirect their conversation without causing confrontation (such as through offering to play a game with the child). If the parent does not respond to redirection, then you can ask the front desk staff to get the interviewer.
- Interacting with child/children while the parent/guardian is meeting with the multidisciplinary team (MDT) post-interview. This meeting is held in the conference room. If the child has anxiety about the parent leaving the room, you can try to redirect child to an activity or neutral topic
- Assisting child and family in cleaning up the family room
- After the family leaves:
 - ✓ restock interview room supplies
 - ✓ clean and/or disinfect tables and toys
 - ✓ remove any used paper off the easel and replace with more paper
 - ✓ replace light bulbs if needed
 - ✓ check the bathroom for any messes left behind
 - ✓ debrief with interviewer immediately after interview

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Cara Ciraulo, to begin the application process and with any questions at 586.463-0123 or carac@mccarehouse.org.

The Macomb County Child Advocacy Center, Inc./Care House is an equal opportunity employer and maintains a policy of nondiscrimination with respect to all employees and applicants for employment, internships and volunteer placements. All personnel actions, such as recruitment, hiring, placements, training, promotion, transfer, layoff, recall, compensation and benefits, discipline, termination, and education, recreational, and social programs are administered without regard to sexual orientation, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, citizenship status, age or disability status.