VOLUNTEERING AT KIDS IN CRISIS

Since its founding over 40 years ago, Kids In Crisis has helped more than 154,000 children, teens and families by providing and connecting them to critical social services. The mission of Kids In Crisis is to ensure the well-being of children through vital 24-hour services. For more information and a complete list of our services, please visit our website at www.kidsincrisis.org

Here are some ways YOU can help!

At Kids In Crisis, volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. We could not do what we do without the help of volunteers! We appreciate any and all time you can devote to helping us. There are two categories of volunteers: occasional and permanent. **Occasional volunteers (O)** help us throughout the year on an as-needed basis. They are only required to sign a confidentiality agreement and register with our Volunteer Manager. **Permanent Volunteers (P)** assist Kids In Crisis in their regular programming. They are more akin to a staff member, working directly with our children in several different programs. The process for becoming a Permanent Volunteer takes several steps:

1. Interview;
2. Two background checks;
3. Completion of medical paperwork: a signed statement from a medical professional that you are physically healthy and able to immerse yourself in an environment with a variety of germs and proof of immunizations;
4. Negative tuberculosis test within the last 12 months;
5. In-house training and supervised shadowing within the program

Special Events (O)

Throughout the year, we host events and we depend on volunteers to help make them wonderful! Our annual Gala, the KIC IT Races and our Have a Heart Benefit are just a few of our annual fundraising events. We are always in need of assistance, whether it be on the day of the event or as a member of the event committee;

On-site One Day Spruce Ups (O)

We at Kids in Crisis strive to maintain a physical environment for our children that is safe, homey and upbeat. Our volunteers are integral to this process. While the kids are at school volunteers can spruce up the shelter by deep cleaning, organizing, painting, decorating, gardening and/or outdoor cleanup;

Dinner Donation (O)

Our staff works hard to enrich our children's lives in all possible ways. We prefer that they spend their time one-on-one with the youth, but many nights our staff must also cook dinner. By preparing a home cooked (or healthy take out) meal, you allow our staff to spend more therapeutic time with our kids. Make a complete dinner in your home for our residents (13 – 15 people) and drop off at the shelter. We will happily provide menu ideas!

Host a Collection or Fundraiser (O)

Collections for needed items can be large or small and are helpful throughout the year. Depending on

our current needs, collections can include items like shelf-stable food, toiletries, towels, school supplies, new clothing, gently used duffle bags, art supplies and holiday gifts.

Kids In Crisis Ambassadors (O)

Throughout the year, Kids In Crisis has the opportunity to raise awareness of our many services by attending community resource fairs and other events in Fairfield County. We set up a table with our brochures and answer questions from the public. This is vital to engaging new partners and, most importantly, parents and children that need our services.

Permanent Volunteer Programs

SafeTalk (P)

KIC provides Safe Talk, a world-renowned child safety presentation, to area elementary schools. To date, we have reached over 4,000 children with the message that everyone has the right to be safe, strong and free. The program uses role plays to teach children how to negotiate common scenarios. Facilitators perform the role plays and facilitate discussion with children on the issues of bullying and basic safety. Most presentations are given during school hours.

SMART Recovery Groups (P)

Kids In Crisis is training volunteer facilitators for a SMART recovery group for children under age 18 struggling with addiction of any kind in Fairfield County. SMART Recovery is a modern, science-based alternative to traditional 12-step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous. It is friendly, action-oriented, and supportive. Volunteers will be fully trained to facilitate the group. After training volunteers commit to facilitating a group once a week for an extended period of time. Individuals in recovery or who have experience with a loved one in recovery are encouraged to apply.

Lighthouse (P)

Lighthouse is a welcoming, inclusive and safe space where lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) teens and their allies meet weekly, and we are expanding. We are adding meetings in more locations in Fairfield County and we are seeking committed, adult volunteers to facilitate. As a facilitator you will help provide kids with a safe place to go to be with their peers. We pride ourselves on being an enlightened asset to the community and hope you will consider becoming a part of our growing team!

To arrange any of these activities or for more information, please visit www.kidsincrisis.org or contact at jfebles@kidsincrisis.org or call 203-622-6556.