



2019 Volunteer Needs

Childcare Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to provide childcare to watch children and play with them while their mothers attend counseling or group sessions.

- **Counseling program** holds weekly support groups for women affected by domestic violence and meet in several locations throughout the county. Our Pottstown location is growing and we need child care help there the most. North Wales is every Tuesday night and that is currently well staffed.
- **Shelter program** holds nightly support groups for women in the shelter. These meetings are daily Monday through Friday. During the school year, Villanova students take care of this childcare need for us. They are great with the kids and very reliable.

Volunteers must complete the Volunteer Application, State Police Background Check, Child Abuse Clearances, and a short orientation that includes information on Laurel House, as well as the impact of domestic violence on children. Villanova students are trained all together.

Transportation

Donations of food and grocery items sometimes need to be picked up from various store locations. We also need volunteers to pick up donations from our administrative offices and deliver them to the thrift shops.

Thrift Shops

Volunteers are essential in our shops. Both shops are owned and operated by Laurel House and all of the proceeds go directly to support our programs. There is also information on Laurel House in each shop that is used for outreach.

There are two thrift shops, both with volunteer needs:

- **Laurel's Loft** is located in Lansdale, and is in need of volunteers to help sort, tag, steam, and put out donations.

If you are interested in learning more or volunteering at Laurel's Loft, please call the shop manager, Jenny Vogel at 215-368-6037.

- **Marian's Attic** is located in King of Prussia, and is in need of volunteers to assist customers, as well as ring customers up at the register and have the ability to work the credit card machine.

If you are interested in learning more or volunteering at Marian's Attic, please call the shop manager, Pattie Ceithaml at 610-337-3068.

Volunteers must complete the Volunteer Application and receive the Volunteer Handbook.

Shelter

Shelter volunteers are needed to work for a combination of direct and in-direct work. Volunteer activities include organizing and putting away donations, cleaning out and preparing resident rooms, teaching yoga, tutoring the kids, preparing meals, interacting with the residents, and other needs as they arise.

Volunteers must complete the Volunteer Application, State Police Background Check, and Child Abuse Clearances. If they are going to work with the women directly, then also need to complete the 45-hour JARS training prior to volunteering.

Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)

The DART program provides on-call, in-person, crisis intervention, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to support first responders (law enforcement, medical personnel) when they are responding to victims of domestic violence. Volunteers must have availability which would allow them to be on-call during at least one weekend per month and some daytime/or nighttime availability:

- Weekend coverage: 5pm Friday to 7am Monday (one weekend per month)
- Daytime coverage: 9am to 5pm weekdays
- Week night coverage: 5pm to 7am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday

Volunteers must complete the Volunteer Application, State Police Background Check, Child Abuse Clearances, as well as the 45-hour JARS training prior to volunteering.

Community Education/Speakers

Laurel House often receives requests to display an information table or booth at a local community event (i.e. Community Days, Health Fairs, and Church Events). Volunteers need to be able to set up and dismantle table display, as well as stand or sit at table and provide information to individuals who came by inquiring about Laurel House programs and needs. Most requests come in Spring, Fall, and during the holiday season. Ideally we like to have a minimum of two volunteers as it makes the events more fun and gives the volunteers breaks. It's also beneficial for them to learn from each other.

Volunteers must complete the Volunteer Application and receive the Volunteer Handbook. The Volunteer Coordinator will also send you information on "Tabling Tips" and will meet with you in person or via the phone to make sure you are comfortable with the event. She will also prepare everything that you need for the event – tablecloth, chairs, pamphlets, LH swag, etc.

Miscellaneous Opportunities

For those individuals who want to volunteer but whose schedule does not lend itself to commit to specific, and/or consistent volunteer hours, there are still a variety of opportunities:

- Special Event Volunteers: Each year, several events are held to support Laurel House (i.e. 5K Dash, Gala, and Walk a Mile).
- Organize a collection drive: Visit Laurel House's website (www.laurel-house.org) and click on our "Wish List," which will list our most needed items. Ask your family, friends and co-workers to each donate an item. This is also a great opportunity for teen volunteers.
- Make dinner (freezable) with family and friends for our shelter residents and deliver them to our shelter. (Big hits have also been making and serving Christmas brunch or an Easter Egg Hunt.)
- Assemble informational and/or resources packets as needed for upcoming trainings and community outreach.
- Come up with your own idea and call us to talk about it. None of the above ideas require clearances or formal training. You may email our Volunteer Coordinator, Samantha Koellhoffer, at skoellhoffer@laurel-house.org or volunteers@laurel-house.org or call her at 610-277-1860 ext. 105.