



Deirdre's House Volunteer Program

Thank you for your interest in joining the Deirdre's House Volunteer Program! The Deirdre O'Brien Child Advocacy Center (Deirdre's House) is an accredited Children's Advocacy Center. Child Advocacy Centers (CAC's) are child-focused programs that coordinate the multi-disciplinary investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse cases. Deirdre's House provides a secure, nurturing, home-like environment that lessens the trauma and provides a source of healing and hope for children who have suffered abuse and/or neglect.

Deirdre's House plays a critical role in Morris County's ability to address the needs of childhood victims of physical and sexual abuse. The Center is the only site in Morris County where a child victim under the age of 12 can be interviewed, medically examined and treated, videotaped, and counseled, all under one roof. This non-threatening atmosphere greatly contributes to the ability of the child victim to relax and more freely disclose the horrific details of the abuse, which are oftentimes embarrassing and deeply personal.

If the Center did not exist, the child would first have to be interviewed and processed at a police facility, examined in a hospital emergency room, and counseled at yet another location, thus increasing the psychological and physical trauma and stress for an already badly traumatized child.

The Center is also the only satellite medical clinic in Morris County staffed by state designated Pediatric Abuse Specialists. Due to the unique qualifications of this medical provider, they are the expert witness of choice and the medical provider most qualified to diagnose and treat Morris County's child victims.

The New Jersey's child welfare system is struggling with long waiting lists for counseling services. Deirdre's House offers onsite individual and group counseling programs for child and adolescent victims and their non-offending caregivers free of charge.

Deirdre's House also provides financial assistance to clients through scholarship opportunities for summer camp and extracurricular activities which allows children who have been abused and/or neglected to participate in the activities that allow children to escape the hurt they have experienced and delight in just being a child.

As a facility with a very small regular staff, Deirdre's House relies on volunteers to support for our program and clients. Thank you so much for considering as part of your ability to give back.

Together we can provide children, youth, and families with hope, healing, and justice.

8 Court Street ♦ Morristown, NJ 07960 ♦ Phone: 973- 631-5000 ♦ Fax: 987-862-8683

♦ www.deirdreshouse.org ♦

Follow us on Facebook at: DeirdresHouseNJ



Welcome!

Deirdre's House provides many opportunities for individuals, clubs, organizations, corporations, or a group of friends and family to donate their time, skills, and/or goods and services. Below are available volunteer opportunities. If you have a special skill or volunteer opportunity you would like to provide that is not listed, please contact us to discuss. We can try to tailor a volunteer experience that will benefit you, the Center, and the children of Morris County.

Together we can provide children, youth, and families with hope, healing, and justice.

Available Volunteer Opportunities

- **Days of Caring:** Great opportunity for community clubs, organizations, corporations, or a group of friends and family to donate their time, skills, and/or goods and services. Groups may select any of the available opportunities listed below in the Available Opportunities listed here to select from during their time volunteering at Deirdre's House. Have an idea for your group that's not listed, we'd be happy to hear your skills and accommodate! If you or your organization is interested in Days of Caring, please contact the Center to discuss specific days of caring projects.
- **Sterilization:** Hundreds of children and people walk in to the Center throughout the year, so for their health and safety, it is vital that the Center maintains sterilization and cleanliness. To uphold this standard: sterilization of toys, organization of the playroom and waiting room area are some of the tasks volunteers have graciously done in the past.
- **Seasonal Decorations:** Available prior to each season, volunteers can help craft, cut, and decorate the Center with friendly and inviting decorations around the waiting areas. This provides families with a first impression and welcoming environment during the hardest moments of their lives.
- **Bloom Care (Spring and Summer):** Take care of the Deirdre's House Garden through weekly daily visits to water and take care of the garden. Picking ripe vegetables/herbs are available.
- **Snack Drive:** Plan a drive for snacks, juices, waters, etc. for the clinical counseling program. Contact the Center for specific list of items currently needed.
- **Thanksgiving Drive (November):** Donate thanksgiving meal items to families. Please reach out to us to coordinate items needed for families.
- **Holiday Drive:** Sponsor a Deirdre's House family or client during the holiday season by donating items from their wish list. Gift cards are always appreciated!
- **Back to School Drive (April-August):** Collect back to school items for our drive that takes places in the summer. You can also sponsor a child for their back-to-school supplies by getting supplies for one child.
- **Birthday Bags:** Create birthday goodie bags for clients of the Center to celebrate their birthday and give another kid an act of kindness.
- **Activity packets:** Create activity packets for children to bring home with them, summer activity packets etc.
- **Relaxation Kits:** Create a relaxation kit with relaxing supplies for counseling clients. Kits can include: play doh, slime, fidget toys/gadgets, bubbles, etc.
- **Stress Balls and Activities:** Create stress balls or stress relieving kits/activities for use with clients at the Center.
- **Kindness Rocks:** Create kindness rocks — rocks with positive and motivating messages for clients of Deirdre's House to take with them as reminders.
- **Community Outreach Events:** Attend evening and weekend community events to raise awareness of the mission of Deirdre's House and Child Abuse Prevention. Volunteers interested will be added to a list for these types of events and will be contacted to see if you are available to attend.

If you or your organization is interested in any of the current volunteer opportunities, please contact us at 973-631-5000 to schedule your volunteer work.

Community Awareness Ambassadors

Deirdre's House is invited to attend various outreach events throughout the year. As a small staff, volunteers help us to attend many of these functions and share information about our programs and child abuse awareness.

Community Awareness Ambassadors attend evening and weekend community events (Internship fairs, town festivals, organization volunteer engagements etc.) to raise awareness of the mission of Deirdre's House and Child Abuse Prevention. Volunteers interested will be added to a list for these types of events and will be contacted to see if you are available to attend. Volunteers can assist by:

- Help set up and take down event materials
- Educate community on Deirdre's House services and Child Advocacy Centers
- Provide community prevention and education about child abuse run Deirdre's House tables at community events: Internship fairs, town festivals, organization volunteer engagements, etc.
- Engage community members with available Deirdre's House activities
- ...and so much more!

Special Events Volunteer

Volunteers assist in special fundraising events such as the Deirdre's House Annual Gala, Golf Outing and other fundraising events. Tasks include set-up, take-down, registration, and assistance with the event.

Fundraising Campaign

Bring to life exciting and lucrative fundraising and awareness-building special events.

Current opportunities in fundraising:

- **Local Fundraising Drive** – Develop and organize a fundraising drive on behalf of the Center.
- **Birthday Drive:** Rather than physical gifts, ask guests, friends, and close ones to make donation to Deirdre's House or host a collection drive instead.
- **Thanksgiving Drive:** Donate Thanksgiving meal items to families. Please reach out to us to coordinate items needed for families.
- **Snack Drive:** Plan a drive for snacks, juices, waters, etc. for the clinical counseling program. Contact the Center for specific list of items currently needed.
- **Back-to-School Drive:** Collect back to school items for our drive that takes places in the summer. You can also sponsor a child for their back-to-school supplies by getting supplies for one child.
- **Holiday Gift Drive:** Sponsor a Deirdre's House client during the holiday season by donating items from their wish list. Gift cards are always appreciated!
- **Be the Change for Children:** Help Deirdre's House locate a business that can host our [Be the Change for Children](#) fundraiser. For Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, we are reaching out to the local community in efforts to raise awareness and critical funds. We are asking local businesses to place mason jars by their checkout counter or somewhere within their place of business in hopes that patrons will donate their change to help our children. For a donation of \$1 or more, the donor will receive a glow in the dark awareness bracelet.

Become a Board Member

How often have you heard people say they can't change the way things are or that they are not the "decision makers?" Joining the Board of Trustees at Deirdre's House can give you that opportunity. Our Board of Trustees is comprised of a diverse group of corporate and community citizens, all with the same goal – to prevent child abuse and assist children and families. Board members make important decisions regarding financial, programmatic, and general operation issues affecting the Center on a daily basis.

Special Skill Volunteer

We are looking for individuals or groups that have special skills or work in a profession that can benefit our clients.

Please note that due to the sensitivity and confidentiality of the clients seen at Deirdre's House, no current volunteer opportunities working directly with clients is available.

Have a great idea? Let us know!

If you have an interest or idea not listed here, let us know! We can try to tailor a volunteer experience that will benefit you, the Center, and the children of Morris County. How can you lose?!



Instructions: Please return the completed application via email or mail to:
Mirella Diaz | Associate Director
Email: catherine@dobcac.org

Deirdre's House
8 Court Street
Morristown, NJ 07960
973-631-5000
www.deirdreshouse.org

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name (Last, First, M.I):		Date:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:		Email:	
Are you bilingual: Yes No		Language:	
Other/Specific Skills:			
Have you ever been convicted of a felony: Yes No. <i>If yes, explain below.</i>			
Explain:			
Have you ever been substantiated or investigated for abuse by Child Protective Services: Yes No. <i>If yes, explain below.</i>			
Explain:			

AREAS OF INTEREST

Days of Caring: <i>(select all that apply)</i> Sterilization Organization Spring/Fall Planting Assembly Drives Creative Activities Open to other areas as well	Fundraising Campaign: <i>(select all that apply)</i> Local Fundraising Drive Birthday Drive Snack Collection Drive Back-to-School Drive Holiday Gift Drive Costume Drive Be the Change for Children Other:
Community Awareness Ambassador: <i>(select all that apply)</i> Community Events Presentations (Spanish)	Special Events Volunteer: <i>(select all that apply)</i> Gala Golf Outing
Become a Board Member	Administrative Help
Special Skill Volunteer: <i>(Other skill, program, or donation you would like to bring to the CAC)</i> Specify:	

AVAILABILITY

I am available on same day with some notice	I am available on short notice	I am available with notice
Please provide your availability for volunteering:		

Day(s):	Time(s):
Day(s):	Time(s):
Day(s):	Time(s):

OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Name of organization:	Dates:
------------------------------	---------------

Contact Person:	Phone:	May we contact: Yes No
------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------

Name of organization:	Dates:
------------------------------	---------------

Contact Person:	Phone:	May we contact: Yes No
------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------

Name of organization:	Dates:
------------------------------	---------------

Contact Person:	Phone:	May we contact: Yes No
------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------

Name of organization:	Dates:
------------------------------	---------------

Contact Person:	Phone:	May we contact: Yes No
------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------

Name of organization:	Dates:
------------------------------	---------------

Contact Person:	Phone:	May we contact: Yes No
------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------

Name of organization:	Dates:
------------------------------	---------------

Contact Person:	Phone:	May we contact: Yes No
------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	Relationship:
--------------	----------------------

Address:	Phone:
-----------------	---------------

OTHER

Currently: Working Retired School Other	Provide other:
--	-----------------------

<i>If working, provide:</i>	Employer Name:	Position:
------------------------------------	-----------------------	------------------

<i>If in school, provide:</i>	School Name:	Graduation year:
--------------------------------------	---------------------	-------------------------

Are you in need of any special accommodations to volunteer at the center: Yes No. *If yes, answer below.*

If yes, please describe the accommodations that would be needed:

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I understand that I will be subject to fingerprinting as part of a criminal background check that will be completed as part of this application process and may be conducted annually thereafter while employed at Deirdre's House. I grant permission to Deirdre's House to contact the references I have provided, and other persons deemed necessary. I understand that Deirdre's House may also conduct a check of my driving record through the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission as part of the application procedure. Deirdre's House reserves the right to deny acceptance of any applicant without stating a reason. All information provided on this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge and remains the sole, confidential property of Deirdre's House.

I hereby swear that the above information is true and valid to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any falsification of the above information may result in termination of my position with Deirdre's House.

Signature of applicant: _____

Date: _____