



## How to Volunteer with Laura's House

Posted by Shelby Barone on May 2, 2015 in Family, Giving Back, Parenting | 0 comments



Volunteering with Laura's House, a nonprofit dedicated to the prevention and education of domestic violence, can be a rewarding experience with many benefits. Volunteer service provides a crucial cost savings to the organization, allowing us to maximize our financial resources and provide more families with lifesaving programs and services. In 2014, nearly 550 volunteers provided more than 12,000 hours of service to Laura's House. We sincerely appreciate the time dedicated to supporting the nonprofit and hope to inspire you to join Laura's House and make a difference in your community!

### **Training Requirements**

As a community agency addressing intimate partner abuse, we have certain requirements that we need to meet as part of the service provisions to our clients. For example, all volunteers that have direct contact with our clients are required to have completed certification in a state mandated 40-hour domestic violence advocacy training, which Laura's House offers three times a year. Not only are these requirements imposed from external factors outside of our agency, but a necessity we find valid in ensuring the ongoing safety and confidentiality of those clients we serve.

**Age Requirements**

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to volunteer independently, or between 13 and 15 to volunteer with a parent. Volunteers interested in taking the 40-hour domestic violence advocacy training must be at least 16 years old, or must supply parent permission to attend the training. Volunteer Positions (40-hour domestic violence advocacy training Required) Positions for direct client service include: 24-hour Crisis Hotline, Childcare at the Emergency Shelter, Childcare at the Counseling & Resource Center, House Coordinator, Case Management, and Administrative Data Entry at the Corporate Office.

**Volunteer Positions (40-hour domestic violence advocacy training Not Required)**

Currently, the only opportunities available to volunteer without the 40-hour domestic violence advocacy certificate are at the Lake Forest and San Juan Capistrano Resale Stores. Resale Store volunteers assist with preparing donations for sale, providing excellent customer service and helping with day-to-day operations.

**Steps to Getting Started**

Visit our website and watch our online volunteer orientation video. From there, you will be able to sign up for an upcoming 40-hour domestic violence advocacy training or Resale Store orientation.

If these opportunities do not work for you, there are still a number of ways to get involved:

**Host a fundraiser**

- Donate to and shop at the Resale Store
- Donate your old car or cell phone to benefit a victim of domestic violence
- Attend one of our events, where proceeds benefit Laura's House
- The key to becoming a great volunteer is being honest and realistic about how much time and effort you can spare. Please consider your schedule, current commitments, how far you are willing to drive and if you can commit to a regular schedule.

We look forward to working with you to end the silence of domestic violence!

*Melanie Galloway, Laura's House Development and Volunteer Coordinator*