



GET INVOLVED. CHANGE YOUR COMMUNITY. CHANGE LIVES.

Volunteers have always played an integral role at Durham Children's Aid Society. The goal of our voluntary services is to assist children, youth and families in the areas of health, well-being, education and stability; and to assist in building support networks for families in their community.

Volunteers build on the strengths of individuals through role modeling and teaching new skills to promote trust, self-esteem, positive relationships, independence, academic success, and community connections.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND ROLES:

Volunteer drivers: Volunteer drivers provide safe and reliable transportation to children and youth. Transportation takes place throughout the day and evening, seven days per week. Volunteers accept or decline transportation requests to suit their schedules. Volunteers are reimbursed for mileage.

Parent mentors: Parent mentor volunteers provide one-to-one support, safety and independence in parenting. Volunteers help parents develop strategies regarding budgeting, cooking, meal planning and household management.

Child/Youth Mentor: Volunteer mentors offer a positive one-to-one relationship focused on the individual child or youth. The relationship helps to build trust and self-esteem, teach skills, offers support and recreational experiences.

Clothing program: New and gently used clothing from donors for children and youth is washed, sorted and distributed by volunteers. This program takes place at Durham CAS during business hours and is flexible to the availability of volunteers.

Childcare: Volunteers provide supervision and care for children on-site to give parents the opportunity to attend training and agency events.

Other Volunteer Roles: Volunteers also support other areas such as our Board of Directors, *Holiday Hope Program* and events.

WHO ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS?

Volunteers are individuals who are 18 years of age and over, and who live or work in Durham Region. Volunteers are highly committed individuals who are able to work within a challenging and highly structured environment as part of a team. They are willing to take direction, while also being able to manage a high-degree of responsibility and independent decision-making.

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER: THE SCREENING PROCESS

Volunteers at Durham CAS are afforded a great deal of responsibility and trust. It is our duty to ensure that those who become volunteers are respectful, responsible, reliable, caring, supportive and trustworthy individuals who can share their strengths in support of the children, youth and families we serve. **Therefore there are a several important steps in the application and screening process:**

1. Applicants must **live** or **work** in Durham Region
2. Applicants must be **18 or older**
3. Applicants will be invited to attend an **information session**
4. An **application** must be completed
5. Applicants must provide **three references**
6. Applicants will provide a **Criminal Records Check** with Vulnerable Sector screening
7. Applicants must consent to a search within the **Child Protection Information Network (CPIN)**. Additionally, applicants will provide a **Release of Information** to contact other Children's Aid Societies when there has been involvement or if they have resided outside of the Region for the last ten years.
8. Applicants must provide a clear **Driver's Abstract** (if applicable to the role)
9. Applicants must provide a copy of their current valid driver's **license** and vehicle **insurance** (if applicable to the role)
10. Applicants will be interviewed by the Coordinator of Volunteer Services to determine their suitability as a volunteer.
11. Applicants must review and sign an **oath of confidentiality** and other **agreements** related to our policies and procedures.
12. Upon approval, volunteers participate in **orientation** and **training** before being matched to a volunteer role, and are provided with a copy of current policies and procedures. There is a probationary period of six months.



To get involved, please contact:

Erika Goreski, Coordinator of Volunteer Services

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