



Gingerbread House

Bossier/Caddo Children's Advocacy Center

Dear Potential Volunteer,

We are glad to learn that you may be interested in volunteering at the Gingerbread House Bossier/Caddo Children's Advocacy Center. Our primary purpose is to interview children when there is an allegation that they have been the victim of sexual or severe physical abuse. Each interview is recorded with an unobtrusive camera to preserve the account as evidence. Law enforcement detectives and child protection investigators monitor the interview from a television in the next room and can ask the interviewer questions through an earpiece. The purpose of this approach is to help substantiate or disclaim the allegations of abuse, as well as reduce the number of times a child must tell his/her account. We work with agencies such as the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Children and Family Services (child protective services), law enforcement and mental/medical professionals to provide the best quality of care possible to the children. Follow-up counseling services are offered at the Gingerbread House by licensed professional counselors.

Our funding comes from grants as well as from generous individuals and organizations. All of our services are provided free of charge. The number of children we serve is continually rising, over 700 per year. With this reality, volunteers are a necessary part of the functioning of the Gingerbread House. Volunteers assist with a variety of tasks, based on their skills and their area of interest and the needs of the Center. These tasks may include general clerical duties, organizing the waiting room toys, fundraisers, and helping monitor children in the waiting area. For individual volunteer opportunities, please complete the enclosed form. Please make note on the form what days and hours you expect to be available to assist us. For anyone 18 years and older, we are required to run a background check which usually takes about a month. After the screening process, we contact volunteers as needed. Please feel free to follow-up with us to check the status of your form.

Please mail or return your application back to the above address. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 674-2900. Thank you for your interest in the Gingerbread House.

Sincerely,

Aelania

Aelania Whitehorn
Family Advocate/Office Manager