

INTERNSHIP/ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, Inc.

All interns must complete the 40 hour Statewide Certification Training offered by The Center for Women and Families. All interns will receive the training free of charge. Proof of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault training from other approved entities will be honored.

Direct Service Opportunities

Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy

CWF's provides both domestic violence and sexual assault services to victims and their children. Services provided in both English and Spanish include: intake and assessment, development of safety plans to address specific situations, accompaniment to the hospital following an assault, accompaniment to police and courts, short-term individual counseling and support groups, and assistance with filing compensation claims with Victims Services. Adult clients are provided adults with information and referrals for available resources including health clinics, mental health services, housing information, public transportation, legal resources, immigration referrals, food and clothing, child care, youth services, and job training.

Services Available to children include: referrals to other services which are specific to the child's needs, advocacy with other agencies, age-appropriate safety planning, and activity groups while adult groups are in session. Advocates also provide a model of healthy parenting skills and works with the mother to develop safety plans for her children. As needed, Advocates meet regularly with individual children to support them through this difficult time and provide them with information or education about living within a family experiencing violence.

Intensive Domestic Violence Case Management

The Integrated Family Violence Services (IFVS) program is funded by and serves clients involved with the Department of Children and Families. The program provides intensive clinical and case management services for families where domestic violence has been identified as having an adverse affect on the child's well being and the adults' ability to parent. Most families are at risk for the removal of the children from the home. The primarily in-home service focuses on all family members including the child, the parent who is the survivor of domestic violence and the batterer. Batterer treatment services are outsourced to a community partner. Core services include case management, safety planning for the survivor and the child, trauma focused work with children, dyad-based interventions focused on repairing, and healing relationships and batterer interventions.

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IFVS interns will assist staff in providing counseling, safety planning and case management services that may include: connecting clients with appropriate social service programs and accompaniment on home visits and for court appearances.

Clinical Services

The Clinical Service program focuses on children 0-17 who are primary and secondary victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. In addition, interns and volunteers may work with adults requiring a higher level of care than provided by advocacy services. The goal of the program is to increase availability of high quality clinical services to child survivors of trauma by providing individual and family therapy.

Clinical interns are supervised by an experienced, licensed clinician. Only three students per semester may participate in this program.

Crisis Services (Hotline and Safe Home)

The Crisis Services program provides immediate crisis services through our 24/7 domestic violence and sexual assault hotline. Hotline staff provides immediate crisis intervention, safety planning, information and resources for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Hotline staff will also provide support, information and resources to family, friends and service providers who are impacted by these issues.

The Crisis Services Program includes CWF's shelter-based services for victims of domestic violence and their children as well as the domestic violence hotline. CWF operates a 15-bed domestic violence emergency shelter for victims and their children. The shelter offers up to 60 days of emergency shelter for women and children fleeing a violent situation. Advocacy services are provided to clients at the house by staff based both at The Center and the safe house. Weekly meetings are held at the safe house and activities are planned for the children regularly. CWF provides 24-hour coverage, 365 days a year, for client crises through a hotline designated solely for domestic violence victims.

There is some availability for interns looking to cover the hotline and work at the Safe Home to work evening and weekend hours.

Criminal Court Advocacy

The Family Violence Victim Advocacy program (FVVA) provides direct services to each victim coming through the Bridgeport domestic violence docket. Court advocates are stationed at the Golden Hill Street Domestic Violence Criminal Court. Court Advocates help victims understand and

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negotiate the legal process. Advocates insure that victims have a safety plan in place that will protect them at each stage of the legal process. Advocates also insure that victims are linked to appropriate supportive services at CWF or other agencies.

Direct services include: information regarding the court process, information about protective orders and the application process for a civil restraining order, telephone or in-person counseling, including support in designing and implementing a safety plan, referral for emergency shelter and for support groups, referrals to appropriate agencies for collateral services, referrals for services to children and dependents of the victim, information regarding the application for criminal injuries compensation, and information regarding the availability of ongoing services.

Civil Court Advocacy

This Advocate is stationed at the Main Street Civil Court in Bridgeport. This advocate provides in works to assist clients with paper work to obtain restraining orders, address divorce and custody issues, safety planning and counseling. In addition, advocate provides in court accompaniment and advocacy by communicating important elements of the victim's case to the judge.

Additional direct services include: information regarding the court process, telephone or in-person counseling, including support in designing and implementing a safety plan, referral for emergency shelter and for support groups, referrals to appropriate agencies for collateral services, referrals for services to children and dependents of the victim, information regarding the application for criminal injuries compensation, and information regarding the availability of ongoing services.

Women of C.H.A.N.G.E.

The Women of C.H.A.N.G.E. Program is designed to help incarcerated women who are in a pre-release or transitional supervision status and post-release women who are re-entering the Bridgeport community. Case Managers facilitate group support at York Correctional Facility utilizing the trauma focused *Seeking Safety* model, as well as group and individual trauma support at CWF.

The program assists clients in overcoming barriers that might make it difficult for them to successfully re-enter society and assume a crime-free lifestyle. Services are provided once a week to incarcerated clients in the York Correctional Facility in Niantic. Case management services are provided women re-entering the Bridgeport community include: risk reduction, case management, referral for substance abuse services, referral for mental health services, crisis intervention, individual counseling, referral to other social service agencies, referrals for vocational and educational services and referrals for job development and placement. The addition of a Trauma Specialist facilitates group support at York Correctional Facility utilizing the *Seeking Safety* model, as well as group and individual trauma support at CWF.

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Multi-disciplinary Investigative Team

The Multi-disciplinary Investigative Team (MIT) investigates serious cases of child sexual abuse and develops and reviews coordinated service plans to address these cases. The team is comprised of representatives from DCF, police, hospitals, CWF, Child Guidance and other agencies that may be relevant to particular cases. CWF is the operating agency of this collaborative team and is responsible for the coordination, supervision and training of the team.

A dedicated MIT Case Manager provides court and personal advocacy and case management for the non-offending parent(s)/and or guardian(s) of the victimized child.

Community Education

The Community Education program provides presentations and trainings tailored to meet the needs of a variety of audiences within the community including: school children, parents, law enforcement personnel, social service and business professionals, and the general public. Within the school system the unit offers single- and multi-session age-appropriate presentations to raise awareness of a variety of issues relating to domestic violence and sexual abuse. Some of the specific topics covered are: bullying, good touch/bad touch, healthy/unhealthy relationships, and self-esteem building. The Community Education Unit also offers trainings and presentations on domestic violence and sexual assault to the general public, professionals and law enforcement officials with topics such as internet safety and keeping children safe. In addition, the Unit organizes and implements awareness month activities in October and April.

Administrative Opportunities

Development

Work with our Director of Development entering donor information onto our database system. Help with the details of organizing various special fundraising events.

Reception

Answer the phones and direct visitors to their appointments in our busy reception area. Help is always needed in the reception area – relief coverage as well as coverage for vacations and trainings.

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Finance

Assist with accounting activities.

Technology

Assist Director of Information Systems and Operations.

Grants Writing/Management

Assist government and foundation grant writers in researching potential funding sources, writing proposals and post-award compliance.

For more information, please contact:

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