

Volunteer Opportunities

The Respite Center offers a variety of opportunities for community involvement and support. Read on to find the volunteer position that best fits your time, skills, and interests.

- ❑ *Child Care:* Individual volunteers make a long-term commitment to spending time with children. See inside brochure for more information on how you can become involved as a child care volunteer.
- ❑ *KidKare Shoppers:* Families or individuals sign up for this flexible, on-going opportunity. Be on-call to shop for the most current needs of children staying at the Respite Center.
- ❑ *Gardening:* Individuals or small groups help tend our children's herb, fruit, and vegetable garden and perennial beds. A great one-time or seasonal volunteer opportunity.
- ❑ *Maintenance/Special Projects:* Our toys and equipment require on-going cleaning, organizing, and maintenance. A great one-time or periodic opportunity for families, youth, or small groups.
- ❑ *Board of Directors:* Individuals make a two-year commitment to agency governance and overseeing the Respite Center vision. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, contact the agency Director.

Volunteer in your community and help support Dane County families. Call 244-5730 for more information on how you can get involved.

the Respite Center

The Respite Center provides respite and crisis child care 24 hours a day, seven days a week to Dane County families experiencing high levels of stress. Families using the Respite Center receive support in a confidential, non-judgmental setting. Parents are provided with child care, short-term counseling, and community referrals. Children from birth through 14 years are cared for by experienced Child Care Specialists with the support of well-trained volunteers. Our home-like atmosphere offers safety and comfort to children staying at our facility.

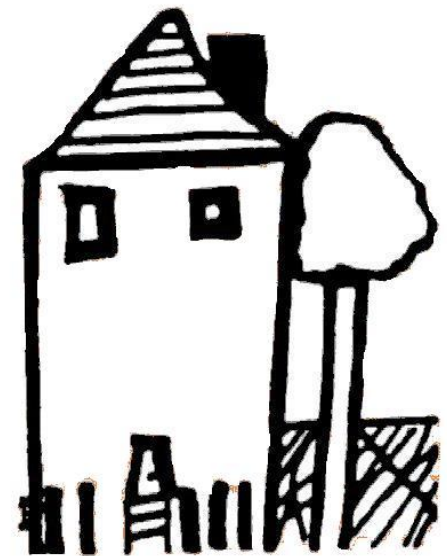


For more information on volunteering, contact:

Paula Evenson
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(608)244-5730
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2120 Fordem Ave.
Madison, WI 53704

the Respite Center



Volunteer Opportunities

Child Care Volunteers

Qualifications

Volunteers enjoy spending time with children with varying needs, and are able to function in an unpredictable environment. Volunteers receive training and work under the direct supervision of paid staff. Child care volunteers at the Respite Center must be at least 18 years old.

Screening

Individuals must complete a screening process before beginning as a volunteer. Potential volunteers are invited for an interview, and are required to participate in a background screening, including criminal records and reference checks.



Commitment

Child care volunteers sign up for four-hour shifts. Regular shifts are 9am-1pm, 1pm-5pm or 5pm-9pm, Monday-Sunday. Most volunteers work the same shift every week or every other week. We ask for your commitment to the program for a period of time, usually one year.



Training

Respite Center child care volunteers are required to participate in ten hours of training. This training covers the philosophy and operation of the Respite Center, as well as basic childcare skills, information about crisis intervention and the multiple issues facing families using the Respite Center. The next training is scheduled for:

Contact the program manager for more information.

Responsibilities

- Work in cooperation with paid child care specialists to meet the needs of children from birth through age 14 staying at the Respite Center.
- Play with, talk to, and engage children, offering them affection and respect.
- Assist with household chores such as meal preparation, laundry, and toy clean-up.
- Maintain strict confidentiality of the families who use the Respite Center.
- Serve as a mandated reporter, informing staff of any suspected child abuse or neglect.
- Be present and on time for your scheduled shifts. Report any absences to your supervisor.

Have fun!

