

Women's Support Network of York Region
1110 Stellar Drive, Unit 109, Newmarket, Ontario. L3Y 7B7
Administration Line: (905) 895-3646 Fax Line: (905) 895-6542
Web Site: www.womenssupportnetwork.ca

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Volunteer Application

To be completed by Applicant

Name of Applicant	
Address	
Telephone Number	
Email Address	
Emergency Contact Name	
Emergency Contact Telephone Number	

Please answer the following questions.

What interests you about volunteering with our organization?

What experience, skills or special interests do you have which you feel may be helpful to our organization?

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What is it you hope to achieve for yourself while volunteering with our organization?

Please detail your previous volunteer experience (where, how long, what your role was, why you left, etc.). If you do not have previous volunteer experience, please proceed to the next question.

What were some of the more difficult problems you encountered while volunteering? Again, if you have not had previous volunteer experience, please proceed to the next question.

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What is your understanding of why women and children are sexually assaulted?

What do you think a woman who has been sexually assaulted needs?

How comfortable are you working in an environment which includes women from diverse backgrounds?

What is your position on abortion? Please explain.

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Are you able to interpret (read/write/speak) any languages other than English? If so, please detail.

Have you ever had any past relationship with anyone at the Women's Support Network or any other type of affiliation with our organization? If so, who, when and what was the nature of the affiliation?

Volunteers are requested to participate weekly on the Helpline. This means that active volunteers are choosing at least 4 shifts a month. Each shift is approximately 5 hours long. Volunteers answering the Helpline do so from home with the assistance of a pager. Would you be able to fulfil this commitment? If no, please explain what type of commitment you would be able to make to the Helpline.

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We require 3 references be submitted with your application. Please complete the section below and let your references know we will be contacting them.

Reference Name:	
Telephone Number:	
Is this a personal or professional reference?	
If professional, what was their position?	

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Each volunteer is required to sign an **OATH OF CONFIDENTIALITY** prior to the start of volunteering on the crisis line and the Board of Directors

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Synopsis of Our Herstory 1992 – 2007

Commitment

In August 1992 we received our incorporation and officially became the Women's Sexual Assault Helpline & Outreach Services of York Region, with a mandate to work toward "the elimination of sexual violence". The core funding provided us with an opportunity to expand our services and our accessibility and we began to develop what would later become known as the High School Outreach Program. The group of service providers formed a group currently known as the York Region Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee. The focus of this group was to identify the gaps and duplication in services for women and to provide a comprehensive service system for women experiencing violence. The Women's Sexual Assault Helpline was designated as the sponsoring organization for this group. We legally changed our name in November 2003, to better realize our growing work in referrals and outreach, to the Women's Support Network of York Region.

The Women's Support Network has committed to incorporating policies and practices that take into consideration the nature of anti-oppression issues. We continually strive to be accessible to all communities and continue to implement our anti-racism and anti-oppression philosophies within our organization. One of the simplest and most effective ways for us to become known throughout York Region was in providing public education in the High Schools.

Over the past 15 years, the Women's Support Network has achieved many of the goals and objectives set out in our original Visioning Day. We continue to provide non-judgmental support to female survivors of sexual violence, in addition to community education on these same issues. We have provided over **70,000** hours of free counselling to women in our region. We have received approximately **45,000** crisis calls, which have been answered by over **400** dedicated women who have provided more than **10,000** hours of support to our callers. While there is certainly more work to be done, we believe that we have made a significant difference in the lives of the many women we have supported over the years, and in building a safe community for women in York Region.

The Women's Support Network has worked hard in forming new relationships with our community partners to ensure our programs and services reflect the growing needs of our community. Our vision and understanding of the diverse needs in the region will remain our number one focus moving forward so that all women in the region receive our service in the most inclusive way possible. Over the past two years the Women's Support Network has opened four satellite offices across the region. We now have locations on Georgina Island, Sutton, Richmond Hill and Markham so that more women can access the unique services our agency offers in the region. With new strategic directions in place and a solid commitment from the team at WSN we look forward to another year of growth, development, innovation and client centred programming.