



Volunteer with MCC
and make a difference

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) Volunteer Position Description

Studies show that there is a 70% decrease in re-offending behavior for members engaged in CoSA.

Volunteers with Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) help to foster communities of hope where there are no more victims, no more secrets and no one is disposable.

Volunteer Position: Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) Volunteer

Program/ Department: Restorative Justice

Purpose of Assignment: To assist individuals (primarily men) as they transition back to the community after being incarcerated for sexual offending. Safer, healthier communities is an underlying goal of the work of CoSA.

Geographic Location: Hamilton, Waterloo Region and Toronto (GTA)

Skills/Knowledge/Attitude Requirements:

- good listening skills and non-judgmental attitude essential
- ability to work as part of a team essential
- healthy sense of own personal boundaries essential
- ability to walk alongside a person rather than seeking to “fix” a person essential
- good intuitive, creative skills and an attitude of learning essential
- compassion and empathy essential
- understanding of mental health addictions and/or the justice system an asset
- ability to work with large systems essential
- driver’s license an asset
- police check for vulnerable sector verification required
- participation in training events essential for all activities, other than prayer update

Tasks and Responsibilities:

There are a variety of places to connect with the work of COSA:

- be part of a CoSA group of 3-4 community volunteers and staff person with one “core member/program participant”; this includes one to one meetings with the core member
- connect regularly, on a one-to-one basis, via phone or coffee shop visit, with a core member outside of Circle meetings
- attend/assist with bi-weekly gatherings or fellowship groups: dinner, music, reflection
- assist with “big events” such as Christmas gatherings, retreats, summer activities
- sign up to receive regular prayer updates and be committed to praying for this ministry

Time Commitment:

- expected number of hours per week or month: 3-4 hours per week
- length of commitment required: we require a one year commitment, although because all of our work is relationally based, we would hope that the commitment continues for a much longer period of time

Supervision: CoSA staff

Training and Development:

- initial and ongoing training required
- regular support from and debriefing with staff
- opportunity for additional connecting with other volunteers
- volunteer liability coverage for all volunteers

All MCC volunteers are expected to be respectful of the MCC mission statement: *"Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation."*

MCC Ontario

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