

**Volunteer Peer Counselor**

**Position:**

Volunteer Peer Counselor

**Position Description:**

Peer Counselors are the essential piece of a project established by the StarVista Crisis Center to offer support and information to youth populations through the website www.onyourmind.net. Peer Counselors are responsible for providing support, information, first-stage crisis intervention and referrals to peers through the chatroom and website while at the Crisis Center. Peer counselors are also responsible for the design and up-keep of the teen crisis website. All peer counseling is done at the StarVista Crisis Center under supervision of Crisis Center staff.

**Requirements:**

Must be at least 14 years of age.

Must be able to commit to a weekly 2.5 hour shift

Must be willing to commit to volunteering for at least 1 semester

**General Responsibilities:**

*Training*

1. Participate in 4 week training on active listening and counseling skills, suicide assessment and prevention, lesbian/ gay/ bisexual/ transgender/ queer/ questioning issues, grief and loss, mental illness, substance abuse, child abuse, self-injury and other relevant topics to work in the chat room
2. Attend mandatory follow-up trainings offered during the course of the year on youth-related topics

*Chatroom, Website, and other Duties*

1. Provide information, resources, peer support, and crisis intervention in the chatroom
2. *Optional:* Add content to website such as questions, surveys, and blog entries
3. *Optional:* Contribute to marketing by designing artwork, distributing flyers, etc

**PLEASE MAIL APPLICATION TO: OR PLEASE EMAIL APPLICATION TO:**

StarVista Crisis Center onyourmind@star-vista.org

Attn: Peer Counselor Application

610 Elm Street, Suite 212

San Carlos CA 94070**Personal Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| First Name: |  |
| Last Name: |  |
| Date of Birth: |  |
| Age: |  |
| Address: |  |
|  |  |
| Home Phone: |  |
| Cell Phone: |  |
| High School: |  |
| Email Address: |  |
| Current Grade: |  |

**Background Information:**

1. List any extracurricular activities (activities other than classes) that you are/were involved in at school and/or in your community.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Description of involvement | How long have you been or were you involved? |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

1. What language(s) other than English do you speak fluently? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe any training or experience you have had in conflict resolution, peer mediation, or crisis intervention.
3. Describe any special skills or talents you would like us to know about. For example: computer knowledge, public speaking, etc.

**short answers**

Please answer these questions to the best of your ability. Attach additional paper if necessary.

1. What qualities do you possess that will make you successful as a peer counselor?

2. What is one thing about yourself you’d most like to change? Why?

3. Describe a situation or a time when you needed help. What did you do? What and/or who helped?