

Volunteer Position: Advocate for Survivors of Abuse

The Advocate for Survivors of Abuse works with domestic/dating abuse survivors. Survivors may contact the Advocate directly for assistance. Sometimes, a pastor or other church leader may refer the survivor to the Advocate.

Because of the sensitive nature of this volunteer opportunity, background checks are performed on every advocate.

Position Description:

- Pray for the survivor
- Maintain confidentiality of the survivor
- Offer emotional support
- Ask the survivor about their safety often; offer to help with a safety plan if needed
- Know about community resources and refer to them as needed
- When requested by the survivor, accompany him/her to a meeting with the pastor
- Connect the survivor to other members of the church to build his/her support network. Only do this upon request of the survivor.
- Encourage other congregation members to become advocates

Time requirements:

- Time working with individuals will vary by the need expressed and on a case by case basis. The advocate is encouraged to put boundaries on their time.

Training Requirements:

- Initial training: KW training about domestic violence and advocacy 7 hours, in person (if church holds a training) or online
- Recommended (but not required) training: Train as an advocate with the local agency, usually 40 hours

Advocate Traits:

- Spiritual maturity
- Experience with survivors and/or abuse is a plus
- Able to provide emotional and practical support to survivors
- Excellent communication skills and listening skills
- Understanding of boundaries
- Ability to use basic information technology, like internet searches and email
- Concern for hurting people
- Trustworthy and able to maintain confidentiality
- May or may not be a survivor of abuse