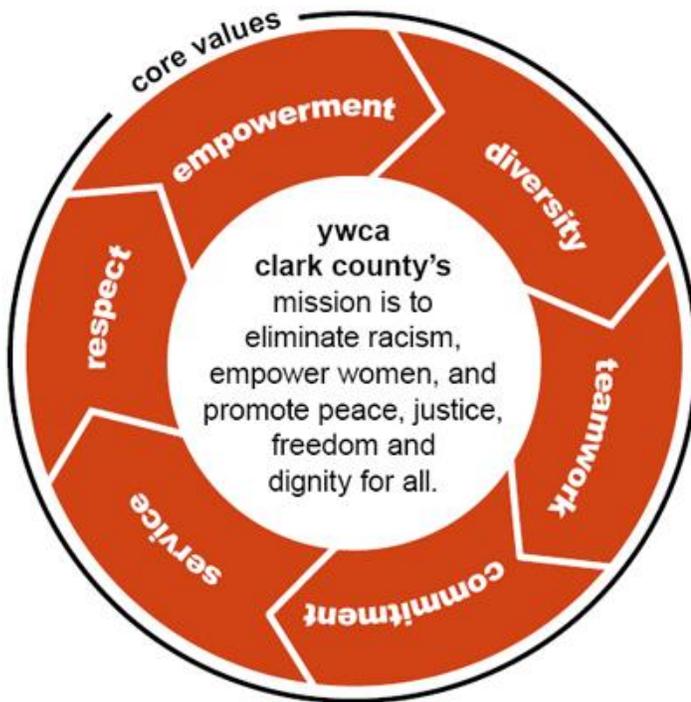


# Volunteer and Internship Opportunities

YWCA Clark County's mission is eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. The success of YWCA Clark County rests in the strength and energy of its dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and talent to the organization. There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available with YWCA. Many programs also offer unpaid internships to students and those seeking to gain professional skills.



**diversity** – we celebrate and respect our differences and recognize the dignity of each individual

**teamwork** – we cooperate to achieve our shared vision

**commitment** – we believe in and live our mission and we are authentic in our word and deed

**service** – we are leaders in providing quality and innovative service in a caring, compassionate, safe environment

**respect** – we value and honor individual ideas, contributions and opinions

**empowerment** – we provide the tools and support that build self-esteem and foster positive life choice

## benefits & requirements of volunteer service

As a YWCA volunteer you will:

- Engage in work that directly supports YWCA's mission
- Be provided with free training to prepare you for your role
- Be provided ongoing supervision and support from experienced staff
- Join a team of dedicated and skilled professionals
- Make an impact on the lives of survivors of violence and oppression

As a YWCA volunteer, you are required to:

- Uphold the mission and values of YWCA
- Complete at least 12 hours of YWCA core training within your first six months of service
- Pass a criminal background check\*
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Commit to your volunteer role (minimum length of time varies by program)
- Not have received YWCA services for at least 12 months and up to 2 years

\*YWCA relies on Washington Administrative Code (WAC) as a minimum requirement of eligibility. Additional criteria may apply. To view WAC restrictions, [click here](#).

## **SafeChoice Domestic Violence Program**

SafeChoice provides support services and shelter to survivors of domestic violence and their children. SafeChoice serves survivors of domestic violence regardless of gender identity, and our shelter is gender inclusive. SafeChoice offers a 24-hour domestic violence hotline, advocacy, legal advocacy, shelter, information and referral, and a variety of support groups and classes.

SafeChoice provides 20 hours of pre-service training on topics related to domestic violence. Volunteers are required to make at least a one year commitment and complete a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education per year. Former program participants must wait at least six months from the last date they received services from YWCA before applying to volunteer with SafeChoice. Volunteers providing direct support to adult survivors of domestic violence must be 18 years old or over. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

### **Advocacy**

Volunteer advocates at the Community Office assist with one-on-one advocacy for survivors of domestic violence needing crisis support, safety planning, educational advocacy, legal advocacy, and information and referrals. Advocates help by empowering program participants to make decisions in their lives. Participants may call in, email, or come speak meet with advocates in person. Advocates may also be responsible for answering the crisis line.

### **Culturally-Specific Services**

SafeChoice provides culturally-specific advocacy services to LBTGQQ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans, Gay, Queer & Questioning) and Latina survivors of domestic violence. SafeChoice values diversity. Bi-lingual/ bi-cultural volunteers encouraged to apply.

### **Shelter**

The shelter provides a safe, supportive environment that is inclusive of survivors of all genders. While at the shelter, adults have access to advocacy, legal advocacy, information and referrals to community resources, and support in independent living skills. Volunteers answer the hotline, provide advocacy to shelter participants, perform clerical work around the office, assist with donations, and provide general facilities support.

### **Children's Advocacy**

The Child Advocacy Program (CAP) focuses on positive parenting and the effects of domestic violence on children. Children and parents have access to individual or family advocacy, legal advocacy, and community information and referrals. Volunteers provide positive interaction by assisting with advocacy, projects for various events and holidays, and in dedicated recreation time for three different age groups: parents and young children, school age children, and teens.

### **Legal Advocacy**

Volunteer advocates provide information and assistance in completing protection orders and may provide court accompaniment to Protection Order Court at the Clark County Courthouse. Volunteer attorneys and paralegals may assist with the Legal Clinic.

### **Domestic Violence Support Groups and Classes**

Volunteer support group facilitators lead support groups for domestic violence survivors. These groups are designed as a safe space for survivors to be witnessed, to process feelings, and receive support from facilitators and the group. Domestic violence classes are safe spaces for survivors to learn more about domestic violence, complex issues within domestic violence, and how to break the cycle of violence. There are 3 support groups a week as well as an additional Latina support group for Spanish speaking survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

SafeChoice interns may provide any combination of the above services. Interns in this program are asked to make a minimum four-month commitment, and are encouraged to spend at least eight hours per week engaged in the program.