**Safe Alliance Recruiting Rape Crisis Companions in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus and Union Counties**

**Charlotte –** Safe Alliance’s Sexual Trauma Resource Center (STRC) is seeking volunteers to serve as Rape Crisis Companions (RCC) in our Charlotte, Lake Norman, Cabarrus and Union County offices. Sexual violence is one of the most under-reported hidden crimes in America. Safe Alliance is looking for caring individuals to serve as a comforting voice to survivors of sexual assault while providing crisis

intervention, support, advocacy and information to children and adults in-person and at local hospitals.

Rape Crisis Companions receive free training from Safe Alliance that involves completing a 20-hour RCC program. Successful volunteers must exhibit cultural competencies and the ability to work with diverse populations. Training sessions begin September 11, 2014 in our Charlotte Office located at 601 East 5th Street Charlotte, NC, 28202.

**What does a Rape Crisis Companion do?**

* Promotes the well-being and adjustment of child and adult survivors of sexual assault by providing crisis intervention services.
* Provide emotional support to survivors of sexual assault via hotline response and hospital accompaniment.
* Complete documentation and adhere to HIPAA guidelines as outlined in training.

**Volunteer Qualifications:**

* Must be 18 years or older
* Ability to listen and communicate with empathy and maintain a non-judgmental attitude.
* Access to a telephone and transportation to area hospitals
* Must clear a criminal background check

**What our sexual assault survivors say about our services:**

* “Having the support of a companion when I was feeling distraught and shame meant so much to me.”
* “Just having a companion there to assure me it’s not my fault, comforted me throughout such a traumatic event.”

**What our Rape Crisis Companions say about volunteering:**

* “It is the most rewarding experience to be a source of support to the survivor and their family.”
* “I want to be there for people in crisis by comforting them and providing resources to them so that they may begin their healing process.”

If you are interested in becoming a companion or if you wish to receive further information, please contact: Heather Chavis, Sexual Trauma Resource Center Volunteer Coordinator at 704-367-2758 or email: heather.chavis@safealliance.org.

Safe Alliance supports victims of domestic and sexual violence, and child abuse and helps people build safe, healthy relationships.   We do this through a continuum of shelter, counseling, legal and advocacy services serving over 20,000 people a year in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union and south Iredell counties while reaching 20,000 more through advocacy and education.

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