

Becoming a volunteer

The agency accepts applications from any individual ages 16 and over. Only volunteers 18 and over can volunteer in the following positions; Parent-Aid, Special Friend, Volunteer Driver

All interested applicants are asked to go through the screening process, reference checks and the agency orientation and training.

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Please call 519-824-2410 ext. 4822, or email volunteer@fcsgw.org or visit our website at www.fcsgw.org

Make a difference

The greatest satisfaction of volunteering is knowing that you have made a difference. Every volunteer at F&CS makes a difference in the life of children/youth and families.

Encouraging diversity

At F&CS, we are committed to being responsive to the needs of our wonderfully diverse community. We welcome staff, foster parents, volunteers and community partners from all backgrounds. We encourage support and involvement from everyone in our region.

We are committed to delivering programs and services, in ways, actions and languages, that are respectful, accessible and relevant to all of our community regardless of race, ancestry, colour, citizenship, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, same-sex partnership status, disability or financial means.



- ▶ **The mission of F&CS** is to work together with children, youth, their families and the community for the safety and well being of children and youth.
- ▶ **We envision** a supportive community where children and youth are safe, secure and nurtured in permanent loving families.
- ▶ **As an organization we value:** the right of children and youth to be safe and secure; the diversity of families; Positive Space that is inclusive; professional practice that begins with a strength-based approach; an open and transparent organization; innovation and creativity; social justice and the importance of advocacy; working together to create positive change in our community.
- ▶ **We are here** to help 24 hours a day, seven days a week with any child welfare concerns you may have. Call us during business hours to learn more about our service programs, adoption and foster care or volunteering.

www.fcsgw.org

519-824-2410 or **1-800-265-8300**



FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Welcome to our positive and anti-oppressive space, where every individual, regardless of age, is valued and respected whatever their culture, faith, ethnicity, race, ancestry, class, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Accessible formats of this brochure are available free upon request.

03-2015

VOLUNTEERING:
You can make
a difference by
volunteering with
F&CS



WORKING WITH
FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
BROCHURE 4 IN A SERIES

Protecting children, building families

At Family & Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County (F&CS or the Children's Aid Society), we support families to ensure that children are protected from physical, emotional or sexual abuse, and neglect. We have a team of caring workers, foster families and volunteers. We offer client-focused programs and work with parents, youth and children toward one primary goal: ensuring the safety and well-being of children. We partner with other agencies in Guelph and Wellington County to strengthen support networks and deliver programs that help families in need. F&CS is a charitable, non-profit agency.

The role of the volunteer

Volunteers play an important role at F&CS. More than a century ago, all programs were provided entirely by volunteers. Today, volunteers enrich and enhance the services we provide by working collaboratively with staff, foster parents and other volunteers.

People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. Volunteers want to contribute and give back, they want to gain skills, share their knowledge and experience and make a difference. Volunteers have a common desire to improve the well-being of others in our community.

F&CS is committed to creating positive and anti-oppressive space where everyone valued and respected. We welcome all volunteers that are interested in building safe and loving environments for children and youth.



How you can be involved

Volunteers work with children, youth and families in a variety of ways. We attempt to fit the assignment to the skills, interest and availability of each volunteer.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- ▶ Special Friends provide one-to-one support to a child/youth. Mentors teach basic life and social skills.
- ▶ Parent-Aides support parents who are experiencing a variety of challenges in their families and help parents develop skills that help with day to living.
- ▶ Group activities include; tutor/homework help, recreational and activity groups, childcare assistance.
- ▶ Volunteer Drivers provide transportation services to children and families.
- ▶ Other opportunities include assisting with fundraising and special events and administration and special assignments.

All volunteer roles are important and play an integral part in supporting children/youth and families. Volunteers are a part of the F&CS team and benefit from training, supervision and recognition.

Reasons to volunteer

- ▶ Contribute To Your Community
- ▶ Explore a career
- ▶ Develop skills and training
- ▶ Meet new people
- ▶ Learn how to work with people
- ▶ Understand the value of commitment
- ▶ Gain personal satisfaction
- ▶ Increase public awareness

Time commitment

We appreciate and value your time and appreciate your commitment and availability. Some volunteers offer a few hours each week and others offer more. Due to the nature of our work, the agency requires a commitment of at least 8 months. Children/youth and parents benefit from weekly contact and groups. We suggest a minimum of three hours per week as a guideline.

