

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

Coming from backgrounds of addiction, abuse, the foster care system and government-run institutions, our youth and families have suffered a lot of pain and mistreatment. Although nobody is perfect, we do our best to provide our youth with healthy role models and stable, committed volunteers who will have a long-term positive impact on our youth and families. We strive to present a consistent message and follow the example of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We also recognize that our young people have been let down and abandoned frequently. We want to minimize the risk of volunteers developing close relationships with youth and then falling away into unhealthy lifestyle patterns that leave our young people disillusioned and let down.

Inner Hope upholds the following requirements for volunteers:

- ✓ **Commitment** - Due to the instability in the lives of our youth and the amount of time needed to develop relationships we require a minimum of a one year commitment.
- ✓ **Maturity** - Volunteers are required to be age 19 or older.
- ✓ **Faith** - As part of a faith-based organization volunteers must:
 - Be a follower of Jesus Christ
 - Have had regular church involvement for at least 6 months
- ✓ **Freedom from addiction** - Because we are working with youth and families who almost all have struggled with some form of addiction, volunteers must be free of addiction for at least a year including:
 - Substances (which includes all use of illicit drugs, misuse of alcohol and prescription medication)
 - Gambling
 - Sex
- ✓ **Law Abiding** - In order to model a healthy lifestyle, ensure safety of our participants and respect for the laws in society volunteers need to:
 - Complete a criminal record check
 - Be free from all criminal activity for at least a year
 - Have no history of sexual offences
- ✓ **Healthy relationships** - Due to a lack of stable relationships and family breakdown, volunteers need to:
 - Model healthy relationships
 - Promote keeping sex within marriage
 - Have not lived with an unmarried partner for at least 6 months
- ✓ **Stability** – Volunteers need to have sustained emotional wellbeing and social involvement for at least the last 6 months.
 - Emotional Instability includes – Mental breakdown, eating disorder, suicidal tendencies
 - Lack of social stability includes – Lack of housing, not leaving the home, not interacting with people

**We are open to discussing some of these requirements if you feel that there are legitimate reasons to do so. Please address in your application.*