JULIE VALENTINE center

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Advocate. Empower. Transform Lives.

Together, let's create a safer, stronger community.

The Julie Valentine Center partners with Upstate schools and colleges to offer diverse internship opportunities for Bachelor's and Master's students across various fields of study, spanning from Human Services to Business Administration. The chance to effect change and offer support extends beyond specific college majors, welcoming all passionate individuals eager to make a difference.

ABOUT US

The Julie Valentine Center is the child abuse and sexual assault recovery center providing free confidential services in Greenville, South Carolina. The agency's mission is to stop sexual violence and child abuse and the impact of these crimes through prevention, investigation, collaboration, treatment, and advocacy. Services are provided for children and families through the Center's nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). As South Carolina's first Rape Crisis Center, established in 1974, Julie Valentine Center is recognized as a leader in the field. In 2016, the Center made history by hiring the first Rape Crisis/ CAC Chaplain and creating a nationally recognized model for spiritual care services for survivors and their families. Julie Valentine Center has been working to stop child abuse and sexual assault before it happens, reduce trauma, and re-establish safety for victims and their families for 50 years.

WHY CHOOSE US?

An internship should be more than just professional growth; it should be a supportive and nurturing space where your contributions matter. At the Julie Valentine Center, you'll engage in work that directly impacts and transforms the lives of survivors and victims, providing crucial support on their path toward healing and empowerment. This isn't only an internship—it's an opportunity to actively engage with the community, making a tangible difference and positive change where it's needed most.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Specific duties will vary based on your program and your university's criteria. For Master's level students needing clinical hours, this involves working directly with clients under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker. For undergraduate students, the responsibilities can include the following:

Victim Advocate Training

As part of our Victim Advocate Program, interns must participate in Victim Advocacy Training held at the beginning of each semester (Spring, Summer, Fall) before beginning an internship. This training equips advocates with the skills and knowledge necessary to support trauma survivors. Covering various topics such as boundaries, reporting, confidentiality, crisis management, and more, this training prepares interns to function in direct support roles with survivors.

Victim Advocacy

As advocates, interns will have the opportunity to engage directly with our clients. Advocates assist victims and are their support system while working our 24/7 hotline and responding to various Hospitals in the area. As an advocate you will help empower victims/survivors of sexual assault and/or childhood sexual abuse in re-establishing control of their lives. Interns also offer support and education to secondary victims (family members, significant others, etc.). During your internship there is a requirement to sign up for on call shifts of at least 36 hours per month.

Office Support

As an intern, you'll assist with essential office tasks such as organizing, data input (volunteer hours, grant information, document updates), inventory management, and preparing event items from our storage unit. Additionally, you'll handle phone calls and help manage outgoing mail, ensuring the smooth operation of our center. We require our interns to commit to one 8-hour shift or two 4-hour shifts per week of in-office time throughout the duration of their internship.

Community Engagement

Step into the role of representing the Julie Valentine Center at health fairs, community events, volunteer fairs, and other local venues. This position involves direct engagement with community members, creating awareness about our services and mission.

Bar Outreach Program

As an intern, you'll actively participate in our Bar Outreach Program, visiting bars and restaurants within the community to raise awareness about drug-facilitated sexual assault. Your role will be pivotal in educating and empowering the community to recognize and assist those in need.

Supporting Educational Programs

You will join our education team in collaborating with the Greenville County School system. Your responsibilities will include delivering educational materials to schools before the program starts and ensuring their retrieval once the program concludes. As an intern, you will also have the opportunity to accompany on visits to local schools to teach students about the risks of sexual violence and child abuse, how to recognize it when it occurs, prevent it from happening, respond to it in a proactive way, and how to access available sources of support.

Group Therapy Observation

As an intern, you'll have the opportunity to actively participate in our therapeutic environment by sitting in on group therapy sessions. This unique aspect of the internship allows you to observe and learn from experienced therapists as they facilitate group discussions and activities aimed at fostering healing, connection, and growth among participants.

ARE ALL INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ON-SITE?

All internship opportunities do require some office hours. However, a large part of our work is after-hours crisis response which is available to clients 24/7 through our crisis hotline and emergency room response. In order to provide a comprehensive experience that includes direct client contact and operational tasks, we require interns to sign up for on call shifts on the weekends during their internship. We collaborate with each individual to create a schedule that works for both the intern and the organization. This mix of office and on call hours allows for a flexibility that works around classes and work commitments.

1 Victim Advocate Training

As part of our Victim Advocate Program, interns must participate in Victim Advocacy Training. This training equips advocates with the skills and knowledge necessary to support trauma survivors. Training covers various topics such as boundaries, reporting, confidentiality, crisis management, and more. These will be helpful skills that will be used in the office, on the hotline, and in the emergency room during the internship experience.

2 Victim Advocacy

Following training, interns have the opportunity to work as advocates and engage directly with our clients. Interns will assist victims and be their support system through working our 24/7 hotline and responding to various Hospitals in the area. As an advocate you will help empower victims/survivors of sexual assault and/or childhood sexual abuse in re-establishing control of their lives. Interns also offer support and education to secondary victims (family members, significant others, etc.).

3 Volunteer Commitment

Due to the unique needs of our organization, we ask interns to commit to an additional 3 months of volunteer advocacy either before or after their internship semester. During this period, interns are required to sign up for a minimum of 24 hours per month as on call advocates. They are also welcome to volunteer in the office or at events if they wish. This arrangement allows us to maintain continuous, cost free support services for survivors while training incoming interns and provides valuable hands-on experience for interns to enhance their resumes.

I'M INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM, SO WHAT'S NEXT?

We're thrilled that you want to join our program! To start, please submit the following items to Chris Linville at clinville@julievalentinecenter.org:

- Your resume
- Completed application

If you haven't received an application yet, you can request one by emailing Chris Linville at clinville@julievalentinecenter.org.

Following this, we'll arrange an interview, providing the option for either an in-person or virtual meeting. After the interview, we'll conduct a standard background check. As much as we'd love to have many interns on board, available spots are limited. You'll receive an email notification regarding the status of your internship application with the Center. If you are invited to work as an intern with JVC, you'll receive information about the next available Victim Advocate training session. Completion of this training is mandatory before you begin working with clients.

WHAT IF THE PROGRAM IS FULL OR NOT ACCEPTING APPLICANTS?

Internship availability can vary based on circumstances, and sometimes it might not be the right fit at the moment. If you're still passionate about supporting the community through the Julie Valentine Center, consider volunteering! For more details on volunteer opportunities, please contact Chris Linville at clinville@julievalentinecenter.org.

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