



## WHAT IS THE CHILD ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM (CART)?

For the Child's CART is a group of trained volunteers who serve as child advocates. They provide children with emotional support and crisis intervention when forensic medical exams and law enforcement interviews are necessary for suspected sexual assault or sexual abuse.

CART is part of the larger Sexual Assault Response Team, a greater Long Beach area multi-disciplinary collaboration of medical and criminal justice professionals that responds to most adult and child sexual assault calls within 72 hours of the crime. CART volunteers respond to emergency calls when a child, teen, or young adult (through age 21) has been sexually assaulted. Volunteers meet the child and family at a hospital in Long Beach, San Pedro, or Torrance to serve as the child's advocate on the Sexual Assault Team.

## WE WELCOME MORE VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THE TEAM

We welcome volunteers who have a desire to help children and their families while they experience great vulnerability and confusion. We encourage community members, college students, educational professionals, and health professionals who are interested and can commit their time to apply.

After completing the online application (<https://forthechild.org/volunteer-form/>), we will contact you for an interview before the training begins. You must complete the screening process (fingerprinting, DMV, referrals\*) prior to training or within two weeks of the beginning training.

*\*All For The Child volunteers are asked to supply three references, we suggest that two of those be professional.*

### **Prior to applying, please confirm you are able to meet these specifications:**

- You must have reliable transportation and the ability to arrive within 40 minutes of receiving a "call-out" during the shifts you choose. For this responsibility rapid transit is not considered reliable. Because of HIPAA privacy laws, a taxicab or ride-share vehicle (Uber or Lyft) is not in compliance.
- Live local to Long Beach, San Pedro, Torrance areas
- Proof of vaccinations – COVID 19
- Fingerprint (Livescan) and Background Check
- Proof of clean driving record
- Valid driver's license and operational vehicle
- Proof of auto insurance
- Working cell phone, internet, and email access
- Commit to covering one full shift a month, every month for one year with CART; **\*\***(M-F 5pm-8am (60hrs)/ Fri-Mon 5pm-8am (63hrs) /M-F 8am-5pm) **\*\***preferred availability needed
- Attend the mandatory 40-hour CART training
- Ability to attend mandatory team supervision meeting and ongoing training on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:30 PM in Long Beach.



## EXTENSIVE TRAINING

Our CART volunteers feel confident for their roles thanks to the 40 hours of training required and provided by For The Child. The specialized training prepares participants to serve as the child's advocate and includes shadowing an experienced CART team advocate on at least two calls. All sessions of the training are mandatory and must be completed.

Topics are facilitated by experienced staff and community speakers through presentations, multimedia (including videos), group discussions, activities, and questions and answers. The training is a hybrid model of in-person meetings and Zoom (live, not pre-recorded).

**Mandatory training days and times are conducted on Tuesday evenings 6-8:30 PM and Saturdays 9 AM-2:30 PM.**

## SIGNING UP FOR ON-CALL SHIFTS

A person who has a schedule that allows some flexibility is ideal for CART volunteers. On-call shifts range from three to five consecutive days depending on the time of shift.

**There are three shift schedules:**

1. **Daytime responders are on-call Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM;**
2. **Nighttime responders are on-call Monday through Thursday between 5:00 PM and 8:00 AM, and**
3. **Weekend responders cover a full weekend or holiday period (beginning on Friday 5 PM until Monday at 8 AM).**

There are two responders assigned to every shift. As for how demanding this will be, you might be called once, several times, or not at all during your shift. Our CART members say they've experienced all of those things over the years. An average call-out lasts about four hours, door-to-door.

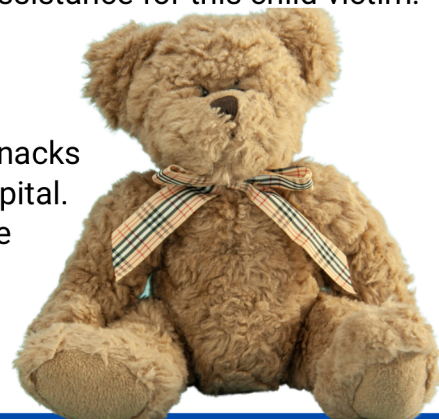
## WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CALL-OUT AND WHAT IS MY ROLE?

### **CART Volunteer's Role: Advocacy, Emotional Support & Crisis Intervention**

Typically, a call comes into the Police Department that a child has been sexually assaulted. The dispatcher sends their officers and then calls the first link in a chain of assistance for this child victim. For The Child's trained volunteers answer the call from a forensic nurse – day or night, seven days a week.

Carrying with them information, counseling skills and a bag full of toys and snacks to comfort, entertain and support, they head out to assist the child at the hospital. The volunteer arrives and gives the child a teddy bear, helps them through the process, and supplies caregiver referrals for treatment services.

However, every call is unique.





## HOW CAN I APPLY AND ATTEND THE NEXT 40-HOUR TRAINING?

Visit For The Child's website (<https://forthechild.org/volunteer-form/>) to complete your application and/or set up an interview.

A potential volunteer must be interviewed before the training begins and must have completed the screening process (fingerprinting, DMV, referrals) prior to training or within 2 weeks of the beginning training.

Call (562) 422-8472 to inquire about the next 40-hour training available.

For any questions, please contact:

Isabel Pasillas at [ipasillas@forthechild.org](mailto:ipasillas@forthechild.org) or 562-422-8472

### ADDITIONAL INFO

- During training topics held via Zoom, participants must be always on camera in a confidential safe space.
- Mandatory Supervision Meeting-**First Wednesday of Every month 6pm-8:30pm** (upon completion of 40hr training) in-person in Long Beach.
- **\*\*Bilingual (English/Spanish) a plus!**  
Not required.
- All scheduled sessions of the training are Mandatory and must be completed.
- Training hosted via hybrid in-person/Zoom on **Tuesdays (6-8:30pm) and Saturdays (9am-2:30pm)**
- During trainings held In-person, all participants must wear a mask at all times.



### FOR THE CHILD

*We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our Federal tax ID # is 95-3601230.*

### MISSION

*To build healthy lives for children and families, free of abuse, neglect and violence.*

### VISION

*For The Child will – one child at a time, one family at a time, one program at a time – build a community that provides a circle of safety and possibility for children.*