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| Peer and Volunteer Application |  |

**Welcome to PARN!**

PARN was created in 1990 in response to a community need for HIV and/or AIDS support and information. PARN is a non-profit AIDS resource network working within the four county regions of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland and Haliburton.

The agency’s focus is HIV prevention, education, and support for those who are living with, affected by or at risk for HIV and/or AIDS. PARN is funded provincially by the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care/ AIDS and Hepatitis C Branch, federally by Public Health Agency of Canada/Community Action Fund, the United Way of Peterborough & District and generous donations from individuals throughout the region.

Programs include support for people living with and affected by HIV and/or AIDS, prevention equipment and information for people at risk for HIV; education programs for community members and service providers about HIV transmission, testing, treatment and prevention; harm reduction equipment and education; peer involvement and working with others to create communities of welcome.

We are committed to strengthening our commitment to the greater involvement and more meaningful engagement (GIPA/MEPA) of people who are living with, affected by and at risk for HIV and related sexually transmitted and blood borne infections.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a peer and/or volunteer!

If you have any questions about PARN, the Peer Engagement Program and/or Volunteering please contact;

Brittany Cameron (she, her, hers)

Peer Engagement Worker

PARN-Community Based HIV/STBBI Programs

159 King Street, Suite 302, Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8

705 749-9110 ext 204

1-800 361-2895

We accept collect calls at 705 932-9110

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**Mission Statement:**

PARN – Your Community AIDS Resource Network is a community-based agency providing support and health promotion for people HIV-infected and HIV-affected. PARN provides education for people at risk for HIV and awareness of AIDS issues to the broader community.

**Our Goals:**

* To promote the well-being and independence of people living with or at risk for HIV in the counties of Peterborough, Northumberland, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes by providing services such as: counseling, workshops, and information on progression and treatment of the condition for themselves and their families; referrals to other service providers; basic necessities to those in need; and assistance with other health issues.
* To prevent the transmission of HIV by providing education, information and resources to groups at risk and the general public in the counties of Peterborough, Northumberland, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes.

**Philosophy Statements:**

* We believe in affirming the human dignity of people living with HIV and/or AIDS. We strive to educate against discrimination and present accurate and non-prejudicial perceptions of people.
* We believe people living with HIV and/or AIDS must have the accurate information and compassionate support that will empower them to make informed choices.
* We believe the fight against HIV and AIDS must also address the causes of social and economic inequality. These include homophobia, heterosexism, poverty, racism, sexism, discrimination based on disability, and all forms of violence and injustice.
* We are proud of our roots in the gay and lesbian community and also recognize the universal impact of HIV/AIDS.
* We are committed to providing confidential services.
* We are a publicly funded agency, and as such, are accountable for the stewardship of funds.
* We value the passion, dedication and expertise of our volunteers, members and staff.
* We honour the courage of people who are living with HIV and/or AIDS as well as the individual lives of those who have died from AIDS related illnesses or complications.

## Our Policy

### **It is the policy of this organization to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age, or disability.**

## Contact Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Street Address |  |
| City , Postal Code |  |
| Phone |  |
| May we leave a message? | Yes or No (Circle One)  |
| E-Mail Address |  |

## Availability

### During which hours are you available for peer and/or volunteer assignments?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Weekday mornings | Weekend mornings |
| Weekday afternoons | Weekend afternoons |
| Weekday evenings | Weekend evenings |

## Lived Experiences

### Do you belong to any of the following demographics?

* Living with HIV and/or AIDS
* Living with Hepatitis C
* Have been on Hepatitis C Treatment and cleared the virus.
* Affected by HIV and/or AIDS
* Affected by Hepatitis C
* Current or Former Substance User
* Current or Former Sex Worker
* LGBTQ\* Youth (14-24)
* LGBTQ\* Adult (24+)
* I am a Man who has sex with other Men
* Self-Identifying (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Special Skills or Qualifications

### Summarize special skills and qualifications you have acquired from employment, previous volunteer work, or through other activities, including hobbies or sports.

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## What is your why?

### What are your reasons for wanting to become engaged with PARN as a peer and/or volunteer?

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## The following list includes some of the types of volunteer work available at PARN. Please indicate with a checkmark (√), the activities that may interest you. Some of these positions may require further training.

**Agency Support Services**

* Office reception (answering the phone, greeting public and appointments)
* Board of Directors or Committee work
* Food Cupboard stocking, cleaning, perishable food pick-up (Wednesdays 10am-12pm)

**Education/Outreach (may require additional training)**

* Workshop facilitation/assistance
* Community Outreach
* Harm Reduction Cupboard
* Harm Reduction Kit Making
* Public speaking
* Newsletter Contributions
* Resource Centre Development/Maintenance
* Display/information tables

**Special Events**

* A Taste for Life in April, an evening of fundraising with local restaurants
* AIDS Awareness Week includes activities on World AIDS Day, December 1st
* Red Ribbon Campaign – November
* Red Scarf Campaign
* Postering throughout the 4 counties for various agency events marketing or public relations.

## Person to Notify in Case of Emergency

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Street Address |  |
| City, Postal Code |  |
| Phone |  |
| E-Mail Address |  |

## Agreement and Signature

### By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a peer and/or volunteer, any false statements, omissions, or other misrepresentations made by me on this application may result in my immediate dismissal.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name (printed)  |  | Signature |  |
| Staff Signature |  | Date |  |

**
PARN Peer/Volunteer Code of Conduct**

**1. CONFIDENTIALITY**
I will honour the confidentiality of service users, clients, volunteers, peer workers, staff, and donors and adhere to the established precepts of confidentiality of PARN Policies & Procedures and government legislation. I agree to consider information pertaining to medical conditions, family relations, phone numbers and addresses, sexual orientation and other acts of a highly personal nature as confidential and therefore understand that I am not to disclose this information to any person who is not authorized by PARN to have access to such information without the specific permission of the individual concerned.

**2. NON-DISCRIMINATION/EQUITY**
In keeping with PARN's philosophies and policies, PARN will neither practice nor tolerate discrimination or harassment against any staff member, volunteer, peer worker, placement student or service-user on the grounds of race, creed, colour, place of origin, ethnic origin, ancestry, citizenship, political or religious affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family relationship, HIV status, economic status, identity, disability or record of offences.

I will treat all volunteers, students, peer workers staff and service users with dignity, care and respect. I will be sensitive to and educate myself about individual and group differences. I will honour all clients' rights to self-determination and agree to support people in making their own informed personal choices.

**3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
I commit to our understanding and upholding of the Conflict of Interest policy. I agree to discuss any potential conflict with a supervisor and commit to being truthful in all matters to do with my position at PARN.

**4. RELATIONSHIPS - BOUNDARIES**
PARN encourages friendly relations between peer workers and those they serve. However, it is important to remain aware of appropriate boundaries. As with paid staff, PARN discourages relationships of a romantic or sexual nature between peer workers, students, volunteers and those they serve. We agree to maintain respectful and professional relationship boundaries during the course of our position and agree to speak with our supervisors should any relationship develop which makes it difficult for us to remain objective and fulfill our volunteer obligations.

**5. LIMITS**I agree to maintain the limits we set for ourselves with respect to the emotional and physical resources we are willing to provide. I understand that our own training and education may limit our ability to serve clients and we recognize the need to ask for assistance or refer when appropriate. If I feel I am being asked to do something outside of my job description, or am having difficulty saying no to a staff member, peer worker, student, volunteer or client, I will ask for support and coaching from a supervisors and/or peers.

**6. ACCOUNTABILITY**
I agree to participate in supervision that is acceptable, reasonable, regular and visible according to the guidelines of the individual programs we are assigned to. Supervision guarantees accountability for the performance of assigned responsibilities, provides an opportunity for feedback and guidance, and assistance and support in my role as a peer worker and/or volunteer.

**7. TRAINING AND CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT**
I understand that in accepting a peer worker and/or volunteer position with PARN, I am agreeing to undertake and complete the necessary training before, during and in the course of my position as outlined by PARN. I value my own continuing development and understand that it is essential as a peer worker. I will do this by keeping updated on new information, relevant in-services, and by taking advantage of opportunities such as seminars and workshops offered both within and outside of PARN.

**8. ALCOHOL/DRUG USE**
I understand that being under the influence of alcohol or drugs may interfere with my ability to deliver service. I therefore agree: not to perform duties while under the influence of drugs or alcohol; not to provide a client with illegal substances, not to encourage or discourage their use; not to participate with a client in alcohol consumption to the point where my effectiveness is impaired.

**10. NON-COMPLIANCE**
I understand that failure to adhere to any and all parts of this code may result in suspension from some duties and/or termination of my position at PARN.

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Date Signature Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of PARN staff