

Voices VS Violence

Program Volunteer Opportunitites

Volunteers are always needed to help Voices VS Violence (VSV) accomplish its mission of reducing and ultimately preventing violence. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Childcare during workshops and presentations
- Experienced workshop facilitators (topics vary)



Funding Voices VS Violence (VSV) receives funding from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Family Divisions/Family Services Special Projects Grant Program of the Maryland Judiciary.

VSV provides services to and accepts volunteers from the community without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin or sexual orientation.

Mental Health Association (MHA) promotes mental wellness and supports those with mental illness by sponsoring and implementing advocacy, education and community service programs. A private, nonprofit, United Way (#8151) agency, MHA has served Montgomery County residents for 50 years.

MHA currently manages 10 major direct service programs for children, teens, families, senior adults and individuals with long-term mental illness.

Over 1,000 volunteers implement programs under the direction of MHA's professional staff.



Mental Health Association
Your Leading Mental Health Resource

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United Way/CFC #8151



Voices VS Violence



 **Mental Health Association**

www.mhamc.org

Voices VS Violence (VWV)

works to ensure safe lives for children, youth and adults by bringing together diverse segments of the community to foster attitudes and behaviors that prevent and reduce violence in our workplaces, communities, schools and families. In 1992, VWV began its mission as a grassroots initiative composed of citizens, organizations, and government agencies which began to work together to reduce violence in Montgomery County, Maryland. VWV is based in the belief that by strengthening natural mechanisms that make community work – families, schools, and communities – violence can be prevented.

Youth Violence Prevention Workshops

are provided to families and youth to address topics of concern specific to each community through partnerships with Linkages to Learning, Montgomery County Public Schools, and a number of other community organizations.

Discussion Topics Include

- Gang Involvement
- Family Communication
- Family Stressors
- Strategies to Address Bullying
- Managing Anger
- Managing Stress

Voices2Empower Pilot Program (V2E)

provides youth involved in the juvenile justice system with psycho-educational group meetings. Their families are offered information and referral services to help in addressing their unmet needs. V2E's goals are to:

- Increase youth's acceptance of responsibility for the crime
- Enhance the experience for the youth involved with the juvenile justice system and their families
- Develop positive relationship, problem solving, communication and social skills
- Reduce recidivism



Youth Violence Prevention

Collaborations offer opportunities for VWV to work with various community agencies on prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies to stop youth violence. VWV actively participates in a number of youth violence prevention committees, commissions, and task forces to contribute to solution focused efforts, foster communication between agencies and service providers, and support an effective referral network.