

ALPHA HOUSE OF TAMPA VOLUNTEER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 2013

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Alpha House of Tampa. We are grateful for your commitment to our mission and your desire to help. Please visit our website at www.alphahouseoftampa.org for a list of suggested volunteer activities and available dates. Please keep in mind that our needs change week-to-week.

For your protection and privacy, and for that of our residents, Alpha House of Tampa requires that **volunteer groups** must be approved by our program staff prior to the proposed activity. Are you part of a recognized, established business, church, civic or charitable group or organization? If so, please provide additional information about your group, including contact information.

Individual volunteers who are not part of a recognized, established business, church, civic or charitable group must complete background screening (at the volunteer's expense) prior to participating in volunteer activities.

While we appreciate the desire to work on-site with our moms and babies, such opportunities are extremely limited by concerns for the privacy, safety and welfare of our clients and volunteers and the residents' program schedules. While there are projects at Alpha House that involve volunteers, perhaps the most powerful assistance any individual or group can give Alpha House is focusing the attention of the community on the needs of our clients.

We encourage you to plan events and activities off-site that will educate the public and increase awareness of the issues and challenges facing homeless pregnant and parenting women and teen moms in foster care. It might be a bake sale or lemonade stand, car wash or diaper drive, the proceeds of which could be donated to Alpha House. You might want to organize a walk/run (or hop/skip/jump?) event, tennis tournament, a raffle, craft or garage sale, a penny or "pocket change" drive, a progressive dinner – the possibilities are endless. Your financial support enables us to maintain our residences and offer the wide range of programs and services to help our moms become self-sufficient and responsible, effective parents.

We are happy to publicize and promote your events on our website and Facebook. Please SEND PHOTOS and capture any stories we can share about your activity.

If you are interested in **babysitting** for our families on-site, you may join the United Way Hands-On Suncoast volunteers through their website at: <http://www.volunteersuncoast.org> Type in keyword "Alpha House of Tampa" and zipcode "33609" to reach the online registration page with details about dates, times, etc.

Thank you for understanding that these policies are intended to ensure that the volunteer experience is a meaningful one for the volunteer(s) and for our residents.