

PALS VOLUNTEER - JOB DESCRIPTION
Brown County Health & Human Services Department

Description of This Service:

The assigned mentor or couple spends time in recreational or learning activities with a child age 3 or older from a family that has been or is currently involved with Brown County Child Protective Services. Volunteer mentors help the child adjust to the separation or loss of a parent, enhance self-esteem and confidence, and learn new skills. Volunteers can also assist the youth by teaching necessary life skills and tools so they can be successful, independent adults. Matches are based on compatibility, are reviewed annually and can continue for as long as both partners are interested until the youth is eighteen. On-going support is provided by the social worker.

Major Responsibilities:

- To meet with the child at least two or three times per month or as otherwise agreed upon in advance.
- Observe agency rules of confidentiality; report any concerns regarding possible abuse/neglect.
- Report progress monthly to the Pals Coordinator and Child Protection Case Manager on the forms and postage-paid envelopes provided or by email.

Activities Might Include:

- Providing consistency and stability, social enrichment: visits or tours to points of interest, sporting events, fishing, exploring nature and environment, bike riding, library, museums, and in general, broadening the child's range of interests and knowledge. Activities around volunteer's home are encouraged as well.
- Teaching life skills: hobbies, building things, courtesy and manners, grooming, hygiene, etc.
- Assisting / encouraging / acknowledging the child's performance in school – help with homework
- Involving and encouraging the child in school, extra curricular activities or sports
- Working with the youth on specific goals to help build their independence such as budgeting, finding employment, planning for after high school, etc.
- Attending (optional) group activities such as: Bowling, Skating, Packer – Phoenix Fitness Night, Dells -Mt Olympus Trip, Fishing / Picnic, Bay Beach Picnic, Mini-golf, and the Christmas Party. (All activities are sponsored by area service clubs and businesses except for the Dells trip which has a partial charge for adults)

Qualifications:

- Be at least age 18 and free of personal or emotional problems that would distract from your assignment and consent to a police background check in each state that you've resided in.
- Be reliable & consistent.
- Be cooperative with social work staff and the coordinator.
- Possess a recommended minimum of \$100,000 combined single limit auto and renters/homeowners insurance, and provide proof of insurance.

Time:

Matches usually get together two or more times per month for a couple of hours or more. (Except for vacations, illness, family / work obligations etc.) Typically, a one year commitment is needed for entrance to the program.

Reimbursement:

Mileage may be reimbursed at the annually adjusted IRS rate. Reimbursement is for mileage incurred only in Brown County.