

MINORS AND FAMILIES SERVING AS VOLUNTEERS PROCEDURE

New Hope recognizes the value of volunteer service for helping us complete our mission to help our neighbors in times of need. Volunteers of all ages and abilities can make a significant contribution to benefiting our organization and those we serve.

New Hope requires background checks for all adult volunteers participating in our programs (see Background Checks procedure) and asks for even more stringent checks for those whose duties include care of children. Volunteering at New Hope can be a great experience for children and families. We welcome our younger volunteers' participation and believe they have much to give. In order to provide the best experience for our younger volunteers, we have established the following guidelines:

- 1) New Hope welcomes one-time and occasional volunteer groups to participate. Our website provides information about volunteer opportunities and how to sign up. Special accommodations may be made for short term service projects with younger volunteers. The keys to a successful project will be parent permission, good supervision, meaningful activities, and attention to safety.
- 2) New Hope will accept regular youth volunteers without parental supervision, and within certain roles, as young as 16 years of age. These minor volunteers must complete a volunteer application and have parent/guardian permission to volunteer.
- 3) Staff members providing supervision for minor-volunteers without parent supervision will complete all required background checks for working with children. This must be done on a prearranged basis.
- 4) Children under the age of 16 desiring to volunteer must be accompanied by a legal parent or guardian or an adult supervisor (such as a youth leader) and have parent permission.
- 5) Volunteers under the age of 18 are prohibited from operating potentially dangerous equipment such as forklift, hydraulic lifts, and other powered equipment.
- 6) Contact with agency files or consumers may need to be limited due to requirements of confidentiality.
- 7) New Hope staff will make every effort to find fun and meaningful activities for families and young people to be involved with when volunteering at New Hope.